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**who's who in your riding • stephane dion plays bad cop
why the burbs think one island, one city is one big mistake**

Globalization in Poor Health

Free trade putting health care in jeopardy in Canada and around the world, critics say

BY KC CHANG
News Reporter

In the era of globalization, health care is quickly becoming a profitable commodity.

That was the message last Friday night when Alternatives, a Montreal-based network of community organizations combating the rise of globalization, played host to a speaking event titled "Health: Globalization's Sick Patient."

Addressing a room of McGill students and concerned public citizens in the Leacock building, the lecturers offered bleak analysis of health care around the

globe.

Council of Canadians chair Maude Barlow led-off the presentation by describing the impact of international trade on Canadian politics and social programs. Barlow dispelled what she called "the myth that 'globalization is great, it just hasn't reached everybody yet,'" pointing to the threat that free-trade agreements pose to Canada's government-funded programs.

She referred to the General Agreement on Trade in Services, a deal forged recently by World Trade Organization member countries, as an example of a deal that calls on the federal government to admit private

foreign and domestic health providers into Canada.

"If successful, for-profit US corporations in Canada would have the right to apply for equal public funds," she said.

And while that should be cause for alarm, according to Barlow, federal election candidates do not seem to be paying any attention. She remarked on the lack of communication between politicians and the voting public.

"Nobody is talking about [health care] in the election. It seems like it's Jean Chrétien's job to dumb-down the health care debate," said Barlow.

GATS and other free-trade agreements,

she said, demonstrate a flaw with democracy. "Our governments are either ineffective or slaves to transnational corporations. Not many countries are saying 'no' to a \$300-billion industry," said Barlow.

Shree Mulay, Director of McGill's Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, followed with an analysis of the pharmaceutical industry. She claimed that Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and the Trade-Related Investment Measures Agreement (TRIMS), also recently agreed upon by the WTO, drastically harm the developing world by forcing WTO-member nations to protect patent rights.

India, she said, is among "a number of countries that developed drug policies to remain independent. Through a series of policies, domestic companies can develop generic drugs and avoid patent rights."

"Intellectual property rights don't promote the transfer of technology, but rather, slows it by forcing it to be purchased. The knowledge cannot be utilized to develop a new knowledge base in developing countries," said Mulay.

Mulay concluded her presentation with accounts of multinational drug companies conducting clinical trials in developing nations. While there are international agreements in place to protect patient rights in medical experiments, Mulay said, companies are frequently indifferent to the regulations.

"Women in the Third World are being treated as guinea pigs. There is a bunch of research going on women who don't know they are subjects," said Mulay.

Mira Shiva, who heads the Voluntary Health Association of India's public policy division, presented the audience with a disparaging view of globalization's effect on India's health system.



Council of Canadians chair Maude Barlow, worries about unbridled trade

Shiva addressed the impact of transforming health care into a commodity. "We used to talk about health care as a right. Why is human capital less important than financial capital?" she asked.

Then, describing dilemmas arising from medical care in developing nations, she said, "Nobody wants to talk about comprehensive primary health care. There is an increasing disparity occurring within countries as some have five-star care and others barely have basic medical services."

Basic health services, such as public sanitation, that were once publicly funded, are becoming privatized industries, she explained. And as health care slowly becomes a profit industry, there will be a lack of accessibility to those who drastically require medical attention.

"Medical cost is the second most common reason for indebtedness in India. When poor people have to pay for expensive practices, the family won't eat," said Shiva.

In concluding the presentation, Shiva addressed some of the social impacts of medical costs. "There has been an increase of STDs, nutrition problems, infanticide resulting from a lack of public health services. Increasing suicide rates in India reflect something negative in society."

FTAA Activists Urged to Reserve Prison Cells Before Protesting

BY PIERRE-OLIVIER SAVOIE
Quebec Bureau Chief, Quebec City

Activists angry about a decision to reserve a prison in Quebec City for the Summit of the Americas meeting in Apr., 2001, are protesting by trying to book a room in the incarceration facility.

This week, Droit de Parole, a Quebec City community newspaper, will be publishing a reservation form for cells at the Quebec Detention Centre during the April, 2001 meeting.

Since all the hotels in the region are already booked for over 7,500 international delegates, the form asks protesters to send their reservation to Quebec Security Minister Serge Ménard.

"I will participate in the demonstration against the Summit of the Americas in April and I plan on being arrested. Could you reserve me a room in the Quebec Detention Centre?" reads the form that was obtained by Canadian University Press.

Mocking Ménard's decision to reserve a 450-cell prison seemed to be a good way to criticize the government's attempts to quell protests against the upcoming trade deal, said Droit de Parole co-ordinator Julie Rhéaume.

"We want to use humour to decry a very sad situation. Demonstrating against something is a human right," Rhéaume said.

Aside from the reserved prison, a four kilometre fence will close off the area where the summit will be held. The RCMP, the provincial police, as well as the Quebec City and Ste-Foy police services, plan to mobilize troops for the event.

During the meeting delegates from 34 countries are expected to discuss the expansion of free trade to the whole of the North and South American continents by 2005.

Several activist and community groups in the province, such as Droit de Parole, have criticized the lack of public consultation in talks surrounding the Free Trade Area of the Americas. They lament the fact

that the free-trade deal has not even been made an issue in the current election campaign, as it was when Brian Mulroney was re-elected in 1988.

The reservation form asks the future arrestee to fill out his or her name and address, as well as the date and hour of the planned arrest.

The humorous reservation form also proposes a few additional options. You can either tick the box where transportation to the prison is graciously offered by the police or choose to head to the prison on your own.

For economically disadvantaged protesters the form also offers a bonus option for those ready to offer a guilty plea in advance, for protesting against the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

"Pre-season offer: give a guilty plea before Dec. 31, 2000 and receive a 10 per cent rebate on the fine imposed by the court," reads the form.

A spokesperson from Ménard's office did not return calls before press time.

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For further information, please contact the Department of Italian Studies, 688 Sherbrooke, Room 441, 398-3953, italian@po-box.mcgill.ca

Fighting for a United Canada

In an exclusive interview with The Daily, Stéphane Dion defends his controversial approach to protecting Canada's federal system

elections



BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

Stéphane Dion, one of the most prominent federal cabinet ministers over the past five years, came to McGill last week to speak exclusively with The Daily about his party's record in dealing with the provinces and the prospects for a future Quebec referendum.

As Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Dion was responsible for orchestrating various federal-provincial meetings that often were mired in constitutional wrangling, such as was the case with September's negotiations over funding responsibilities for Canada's health care system. As well, he was the main architect of the controversial Clarity Bill, meant to force the Government of Quebec to pose a direct and simple question to the province's voters in the event of a future referendum.

Some premiers have accused Dion and the Liberals of being too forceful in their negotiations with the provinces and overstepping the proper bounds of federal jurisdiction. Critics have charged that the federal government is frequently the author of provincial discontent.

Dion sees the matter differently. "We have respected all the jurisdictions of the provinces, we ask for the same respect for

our own responsibilities to Canadians. This is the best approach everywhere, with the economy, with social policies and with relationships with other countries. This means when the premiers and the Prime Minister ask for mutual respect, you will have negotiations. You will have disagreements sometimes. You will have tough times, maybe a bit too aggressive, [but the aggression is] from the premiers most of the time."

Dion singled out Ontario's Mike Harris, Alberta's Ralph Klein and Quebec's Lucien Bouchard as the premiers who are most disruptive during federal-provincial meetings. He cited as an example their demand in September's health meeting to strike a deal using the federal government's money, but remove the Prime Minister's name from the agreement. He argues that disputes are an inherent component of a well-functioning federal system.

"At the end of the day you will have a result good for you, good for Canadians...We are not aware of one modern federation in the world that would try to fix its health care system without the federal government. It's not against the constitution, we have constitutional responsibilities there, we are respecting the provincial responsibilities, they will respect our responsibilities. And maybe they were upset a bit, but at the end of the day, they signed. Now we have a plan that involves all the governments."

Dion believes that the joint administering of complex policy areas by the different levels of government is beneficial for the country, and he fears that if the Canadian Alliance is elected, Stockwell Day's plans of increased decentralization will be damaging.

"Stockwell Day wrote to the premiers two days before this important meeting and said to the premiers, 'whatever you want, I will give it to you.' This is the difference. It's easy to buy a so-called peace with the provinces, it's another thing to run this federation properly and, at the end of the day, sign with the provinces to create helpful agreements for Canadians. It's not aggressiveness, it's mutual respect."

While Ontario and Alberta might occasionally complain about the federal government's behaviour, no province has been more adamant than Quebec in alleging that its jurisdictional territory has been encroached upon. In particular, the Clarity Bill, which was tabled in the House of Commons last December and passed by the Senate in June, was a lightning rod for separatist ire, with Bouchard claiming that Ottawa was usurping the power of Quebecers to determine their own future.

Even federalists in Quebec, like provincial Liberal leader Jean Charest, warned of the possibility of a backlash to the bill. The question of secession has died down since the 1995 referendum, Charest argued, and thus there was no reason to revive a dormant issue. Nevertheless, Dion steadfastly maintained that the laws surrounding referenda on independence had to be properly defined before Quebecers are presented with yet another vote on the issue. And, to a certain extent, he has been vindicated.

"It's very unlikely that they will have another attempt of a secessionist referendum, because everybody knows now that with an unclear question, it is an impasse, there is no negotiation, we stay in Canada. Nobody will lose this country with a con-



Simon Tudiver

Stéphane Dion: "I would not have forgiven myself if I had to watch on TV a third referendum."

fused question. Everybody knows that with a clear question, asking Quebecers to give up Canada, Quebecers will say no, we want to stay in Canada.

"So clarity is your right as a citizen. You have the right to be sure that you will never lose this country in confusion... We have protected the rights of citizens and it's why the so-called backlash never came. I think Quebecers understood that is a pro-Quebec, pro-democracy act."

The Liberals convinced Dion to enter politics in 1996, looking for a Quebec minister who could present a strong voice in the secessionist debate. When Jean Chrétien called on him to join the federal cabinet, he was working as a political science professor at the Université de

Montréal. The federalists had narrowly won the 1995 referendum, and Dion felt it was his duty to come on board.

"I didn't plan to come into politics, [but I did] because the Prime Minister asked me to help the country stay together. One of my friends told me, 'Stéphane you accepted by "regret avoidance,"' and I think it's true. I would not have forgiven myself if I had to watch on TV a third referendum and I would not have tried to do something to avoid such a mess."

Dion is expected to win reelection in his riding of Saint-Laurent/Cartierville and retain the same portfolio as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs should the Liberals form the government again.

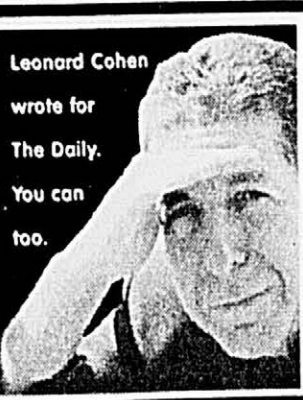
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First Nations Leader Speaks Out on Burnt Church

Mi'kmaq rights are being ignored, according to native leader

BY CAROLYN LEFEBVRE
News Reporter

The aboriginal rights of Mi'kmaq natives of Burnt Church, New Brunswick, will be on the line if the Canadian government gets its way, according to Noah Augustine.

The aboriginal affairs consultant to the Assembly of First Nations delivered his message to about 80 students gathered in the Moot Court room of McGill's Chancellor Day Hall last Thursday.

Augustine addressed the recent conflict between the federal government and Mi'kmaq fishers in Burnt Church, calling that case an example of the greater challenges that come with trying to implement treaties between Canada and its First Nations communities.

"People are fighting in Burnt Church because they say we have a treaty right," said Augustine. "But in fact, it's not the treaty right which allows us to go fish for commercial purposes - that right always existed."

Augustine explained that while the Mi'kmaq signed treaties beginning in the eighteenth century that give the tribe the right to fish for lobster year-round, the real issue in Burnt Church is pre-existing aboriginal rights.

"A treaty is just an acknowledgement of a right that already exists," he said. "An

aboriginal right is something that was exclusively exercised by Aboriginal people prior to contact with Europeans."

Augustine also said that the federal government's crackdown on native fishers amounts to no more than a succumbing to pressure from non-native fishers.

"MPs are getting hounded so bad [by non-native lobby groups] who say that the native fishermen are everywhere. They don't want to lose their seats over this, so they pressure [Fisheries and Oceans minister Herb] Dhaliwal to make tougher measures to appease the non-native industry," explained Augustine.

The native leader also took the opportunity to describe the long history that led to the conflict at Burnt Church.

Controversy over the region's lobster fisheries began in September of last year, when the Supreme Court cited native treaties dating back to 1725 to say that Donald Marshall, a Mi'kmaq fisherman, had not broken the law when he went fishing out of season and without a license.

Then, when non-native fishers grew angry with the decision, they decided to take matters into their own hands.

"Within two weeks of the decision, there were confrontations on the water," recalled Augustine.

Fearing that the lobster stocks would be depleted, the Nova Scotia Fisherman's

Coalition, a non-native group of fishers, then requested that the Marshall decision be "clarified" by the Supreme Court.

The unprecedented clarification said that federal and provincial governments could place some limits on treaty fishing rights, so long as regulations were adopted in the name of conservation.

Quickly, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans set down new limits on native lobster traps, arguing that their concern was indeed with conservation.

But according to Augustine, the new regulations had nothing to do with conservation at all. He accused the government of using conservation as an excuse to exclude Natives from the fishing industry.

"Their issue was that the non-natives have to sit back and watch the natives fish in what is generally a closed season to them. The issue at stake in Burnt Church isn't conservation, it's strictly a political issue," he said.



Native fisher traps lobster in Miramichi Bay

Nonetheless, the stakes were raised this summer when DFO vessels began to block off natives' access to waters near Burnt Church, and reports emerged of RCMP vessels ramming native boats and arresting those who they claimed were there illegally. Among those arrested was Tracy Sinclair, a McGill student on a human rights monitoring mission in Burnt Church, and an organizer for The Project, the McGill club that organized Augustine's visit last week.

"I couldn't believe what was happening, the police in full riot gear... purposely hitting these boats and running on top of them as people were trying to help others out of the water," recalled Augustine. "They were being swung at with clubs."

After the confrontations, former Ontario premier Bob Rae was appointed

as an official mediator, but he returned home earlier this Fall when Dhaliwal lost patience with the mediation process.

Since then, said Augustine, resolving things with the Mi'kmaq has fallen off the federal government's agenda.

"Right now we can't even talk to them because of the federal elections," he said. "[As far as they are concerned], it's not an issue anymore."

Time and again, Augustine pointed out what he called discrepancies between what the federal government told the public and what natives see as the truth of the matter. "There's been a lot of misrepresentation of facts, which I think not just Mi'kmaq people, but all of Canada should be concerned with. What we've been seeing is simply not Canadian," he said.

Peruvians Stand Up for Labour Rights

BY HOLLY BECK
News Reporter

The campaign for workers' rights in Peru made a stop at McGill last Thursday when McGill Business Watch hosted two Peruvian labour organizers who spoke to about 35 students on the subject of "Globalization of Economics and the Condition of Multinational Workers in Peru."

Giovanna Larco Drouilly, president of PLADES, a workers' rights and women's group, outlined Peru's current labour struggles in the face of globalization.

"The 1990's marked the opening of Peru's economy to international investments. One objective of the government was to bring foreign investment to all sectors in Peru. To achieve this goal, all government-held sectors had to be privatized and the cost of production had to be reduced to attract foreign investment. An authoritarian government was the only way to achieve this," Drouilly said through an interpreter.

Drouilly pointed to the tumult that began in 1992 when Peruvian president

Alberto Fujimori suspended the country's constitution and closed down the legislative and judicial branches of government. Ever since, according to Drouilly, workers rights have increasingly come under attack.

Julio Rivera Salvador, a union leader at the SUTREL electrical company echoed Drouilly's concern with what political goings-on have meant for workers in the South American country.

"For the past ten years, we have been living under a dictatorship. Some political parties have assassinated or imprisoned syndicate members pushing for change."

The picture gets even bleaker, he said, when one considers what younger generations have to look forward to.

"Those who suffer most are children, because they have no chance to fight back. The educational system is very narrow-minded and limited. Young people don't have the freedom to think alternatively. People who are starting to work now will never have stable jobs, securities, or retirement funds," said Salvador.

Salvador went on to finger globalization as the culprit in the virtual disappearance of

workers' rights. "Multi-national companies say, 'we're bringing the country technology, capital, and paradise.'" But what they bring is misery. They've left our economy in a state of recession, hunger, and sickness."

According to Salvador, 50 per cent of workers have no labour rights at all, 80 per cent have no social or pension benefits, and 48 per cent are underemployed, meaning their income puts them below the national poverty line.

The speakers also highlighted what they think should be Canada's role in ameliorating working conditions in Peru.

"Canada was chosen as the first country [for us] to visit for two reasons: the support it has shown for the labor groups, and its investments in the mining industry in Peru," said Drouilly.

She referred to a recent conference in

Toronto at which Canada took an especially strong stance on advocating a set schedule for elections in Peru, in the aftermath of corruption rumours and

committed to multi-million dollar investments in Peru, including Nortel Networks and Hydro Quebec, committing over \$100-million between them, said Drouilly. That

leaves her concerned that Canada is supporting industries that are responsible for undermining workers' rights in Peru.

A question from the audience raised the possibility of multinational corporations withdrawing their investments from Peru. When asked how Peru's economy would handle the loss, Drouilly said, "They don't have to be here."

We're not going to beg for the multinationals to stay if the workers cannot eat."

The speakers' Canadian tour, which culminated with their Montreal appearance; was arranged through CUSO-Quebec, whose goal it is to forge relations between groups with similar interests in Canada and Peru.

“Multi-national companies say, 'we're bringing the country technology, capital, and paradise.' But what they bring is misery. They've left our economy in a state of recession, hunger, and sickness.”

questions about Fujimori's recent re-election. At the same time, Drouilly pointed out, Canada has invested heavily in Peru's industry, especially mining.

"In 1999, Canada had invested \$350-million with a commitment to invest \$3-billion in the near future," she said. Numerous Canadian companies have

Human Relationship with the Environment Needs to Change, Suzuki says

Canada's favourite environmentalist chastises the Liberals' record on greening

BY LAROUX PEOPLES
News Reporter

With federal elections less than a week away, David Suzuki delivered a biting review of the federal Liberals' record on the environment, during a stop in Montreal on Tuesday.

"Jean Chrétien couldn't give a damn about the environment," Suzuki shouted to a packed house at Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue in Westmount.

Suzuki, one of Canada's biggest names in environmental science and one-time host of *The Nature of Things*, a popular CBC program, said that when voters go to the polls, they must consider the complete disregard that the federal Liberals have shown to the environment.

"We have a party seeking a third term that, for seven years, relegated the environment to the garbage can," said Suzuki.

He said his major concern is with how little the federal government has done about global warming. Although Canada agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emission at the Kyoto Climate Change conference in 1997, the federal government has not followed through, Suzuki said. The government's inaction came under fire this week at the UN Climate Summit at the Hague.

Suzuki also referred to a project initiated by a group of environmentalists in Holland who ranked 160 countries in terms

of their responses to global warming. Canada placed near the bottom of the list, Suzuki said.

"I am embarrassed, as a Canadian, with these findings," he said.

Suzuki added that global warming poses a particular threat to northern countries like Canada. "Canada is one of the nations with the most to lose by not doing anything about global warming," he said.

Broadening his criticism of the federal government, he added, "Our government is performing Marxism, but I'm not talking about Karl Marx, I'm talking about Groucho Marx. He used to say, 'Why should I care about future generations?' Children aren't on the federal governments radar screen because they have no political power."

Suzuki also took issue with the federal government's claim that meeting standards set out in Kyoto does not make economic sense.

"Reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses to the Kyoto level won't be an economic disaster. By trying to get out of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Chrétien is protecting the oil interests in this country. The federal government is being held hostage by the fear of what Alberta will do," Suzuki charged.

But the Liberals' poor record does not mean that Canadians should cast their vote for the Liberals' main rival, the Canadian Alliance. The Alliance, according to Suzuki,

"is the opposition party that can't stop talking about tax cuts" and that has no real plans to address concerns about the environment.

But while politicians seem to be ignoring the cries of environmentalists, Suzuki thinks that the public at large is not so ambivalent about environmental issues. "People know there's something wrong and that we have to act," he said.

According to Suzuki, Canadians need to redefine notions of human achievement in the new millennium.

"Our dominance is apparent everywhere. Flying over the country to get here I saw the checkerboards left by clearcutting and the geometric patterns of farming. We call this progress." Meanwhile, he said, poverty, racism, oppression, and genocide continue to grow.

"The challenge of the millennium is the change in the term 'environment'. The environment is far more than a concern for nature itself; it's become a concern for social justice, equity, and poverty," said Suzuki.

To illustrate how society should redefine its relationship with nature, he drew on one of his recent encounters.

"A Haida man I was interviewing for a film about clearcutting said something that I initially didn't think about too much because I was preoccupied. He said, 'Once the trees are gone [the Haida] will be like everyone else.' When I actually thought about it, I realized the impor-



David Suzuki in Montreal on Tuesday

tance of what he was saying. Being Haida means being connected to the land. Native people have a fundamentally different sense of the land."

"I've realized [native people] are absolutely right. We frame our environment the wrong way. We are the earth and

I mean that in the most scientifically profound way."

Suzuki concluded, to a standing ovation, "The challenge for us is how to rediscover our place in the environment, and how to make things like economics congruent with preserving the four elements."

Westmount Candidates Duke it Out

elections



BY PHILIP TODD
News Reporter

Questions regarding social spending priorities and anger over Westmount's proposed incorporation into a Montreal mega-city dominated the riding of Westmount-Ville-Marie's first all-candidates debate Tuesday night at Victoria Hall on Sherbrooke. The riding of Westmount-Ville Marie includes McGill's campus and most of its students.

For the crowd of mainly older Westmount residents, along with the occasional student, the debate was an opportunity to air grievances against Lucienne Robillard, the current Liberal MP, as well as meet the riding's candidates first-hand and

hear the various party platforms.

Debate participants included Willy Blomme of the NDP, Brian Price of the Progressive Conservatives, Lucienne Robillard of the Liberal Party and Brian Sarwer-Foner of the Green Party. Of the ten candidates running in Westmount-Villa-Marie, only Saroj Bains, the Marxist-Leninist Candidate, and Felix Cotte, the Canadian Alliance candidate, declined to attend the debate.

First and foremost on the minds of the voters was what their federal representative would do to protect Westmount from a Provincial plan to amalgamate it with the proposed Montreal mega-city.

While current MP Lucienne Robillard, speaking as a private citizen questioned the democracy of the amalgamation process, she felt this issue fell outside her federal jurisdiction. Yet when asked point-blank whether she would use her federal powers to intervene to save Westmount from merging, Robillard would not say. "We are not there yet, let's be clear, the legislation has just been tabled," she said. "And I hope that with the massive reaction of the people and the intervention of the Liberal Party of Quebec, that they won't pass that legisla-

tion." Robillard suggested that the best defence would be from the legal perspective of defending minority rights.

But Brian Price, PC candidate and long-time Westmount resident was quick to criticize Robillard's lack of initiative on the issue. "One day if perhaps I'm a cabinet minister, I would like to use all the tools at my disposal to actually head off what we can see is an inevitable swallowing," said Price. "What we need is action. Frankly I would bring this up in the house. I would say that we have minority rights at stake in Quebec and indeed could ask that this power [of disallowance] be used on this legislation."

Meanwhile, some residents took the opportunity to direct their anger over the proposed merger at the Bloc Quebecois candidate Marcela Valdivia. Valdivia simply dismissed the issue as a provincial matter.

While nary a word was uttered on the issue of cutting taxes, many constituents, particularly older citizens, expressed their concerns over Canada's failing standards of healthcare and education and attributed this largely to cuts in transfer payments to the provinces.

NDP candidate Willy Blomme was quick

to point out that spending in healthcare and education were priorities for the New Democrats. "We are the only party that would not give a tax cut to all Canadians, because we believe that Canadians value their healthcare system more than tax cuts," said Blomme. "And on education we are the only party proposing a roll back of tuition fees."

Brian Price blamed the current trend toward two-tier healthcare on the deep cuts made by the Liberal Party since 1993. "I would bet two-tier healthcare is obviously a result of cutting back on the federal level, cascading that down onto the provinces and downloading other services everywhere else," he said. The PC candidate said that his party would return federal-provincial transfer payments in both healthcare and education to 1993 levels.

Robillard defended her party's record on health and education pointing to the \$42 billion deficit in 1993 as the cause of the Liberal's deep cuts in social spending. "We decided to present a plan to everyone to say, we must do something; that meant sacrifices for everyone," said Robillard.

Unhappy that the debate was circling around Robillard, Price, and Blomme, Patrice

Caron, the Marijuana Party candidate, left before the conclusion of the event, seemingly satisfied that he had brought the more serious issues associated with marijuana use to the attention of Westmount residents. The other 'fringe' candidates, however, did not appear as disgruntled by their minor role in the debate.

Green party candidate Brian Sarwer-Foner spoke to questioners' environmental concerns and criticised the Liberal Party's "half-measures" on environmental issues.

Homeless candidate Michel Laporte of the Nothing party sang his 'opening remarks,' joined by the Accueil Bonneau homeless men's choir and pleaded for "responsible government."

Finally, Natural Law Party candidate Allan Faguy spoke about Vedic Science and coherent collective consciousness to the muted chuckles of those in attendance who had not yet been lulled to sleep by his soothing new age voice.

An additional all-candidates debate for the Westmount-Ville Marie riding will be held today at 5 pm in the McGill University Faculty Club Ballroom at 3450 McTavish St.

elections



Know Your Laurier-Saint-Marie

The riding of Laurier-Saint-Marie has been held by the Bloc Québécois since 1993. The current MP for the riding is Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe. Laurier-Saint-Marie extends from its western boundary of St. Laurent St. eastward to the tracks of Canadian Pacific railway, just past Rue Frontenac. The riding

extends southward to the waterfront and includes both islands of Saint-Helene and Notre Dame. The Canadian Pacific railway, just above St. Joseph St. cordons off the riding's northern boundary. University students make up just under a third of the riding's residents.

FACTS

Current MP: Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Québécois
Population: 96,487
Number of registered voters: 72,606
Voter turnout in 1997 general election: 70%
Unemployment rate: 15%
No. of University students: 31,550
Native Anglophone: 5,860
Native Francophone: 74,085
Speakers of other native languages: 12,330

CANDIDATES

JEAN-PHILIPPE CÔTÉ, LIBERAL

Jean-Philippe Côté practised law for a few years, before founding a film production company, NOR-FILMS. Born in Quebec City, Côté holds a Master's degree in environmental law from the University of California at



Berkeley, and a bachelor of law degree from the University of Ottawa. Côté is also an actor and has played in many theatre, television and movie roles.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"The main issue here is to strengthen the link between the constituents and their federal representation."

GILLES DUCEPPE, BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

The first separatist deputy elected under the banner of the Bloc Québécois in 1990, Gilles Duceppe holds a B.A. from the Collège Mont-Saint-Louis, and studied Political Science at the University of Montreal. Duceppe was leader of the opposition in 1996-1997 and has been Bloc Québécois president since 1997.



What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"The main issue in this riding is increasing employment as well as opportunities for the young."

DYLAN PERCEVAL-MAXWELL, GREEN PARTY

Dylan Perceval-Maxwell studied climate change at McGill and currently operates an eco-boutique on Duluth East. Perceval-Maxwell drives a Golf Diesel, which he runs on a combination of both new and used vegetable oil, and bio-diesel. He has travelled extensively, as far as Thailand, Japan, India and Taiwan.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"I would say poverty. The way to improve the situation is to invest in ecological technology. Everyone knows that the future economy is going to be green."

STÉPHANE PRUD'HOMME, CANADIAN ALLIANCE

Stéphane Prud'homme is 30 years old, and is currently a Communications Advisor at Hydro Quebec. This is his first experience in politics. Prud'homme holds a Baccalaureate in Psychology from Chicoutimi University as well as a Certificate in History, Arts and Sciences from the University of Montreal. For 11 years Prud'homme has volunteered in Montreal, working with groups such as Suicide Action Montreal, Operation Nez-Rose and the Coalition des Organismes Communautaires de Lutte Contre le SIDA.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"The main issue is the battle against poverty. This is one of the poorest ridings in Canada, and this must be addressed."

JEAN-FRANÇOIS TESSIER, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

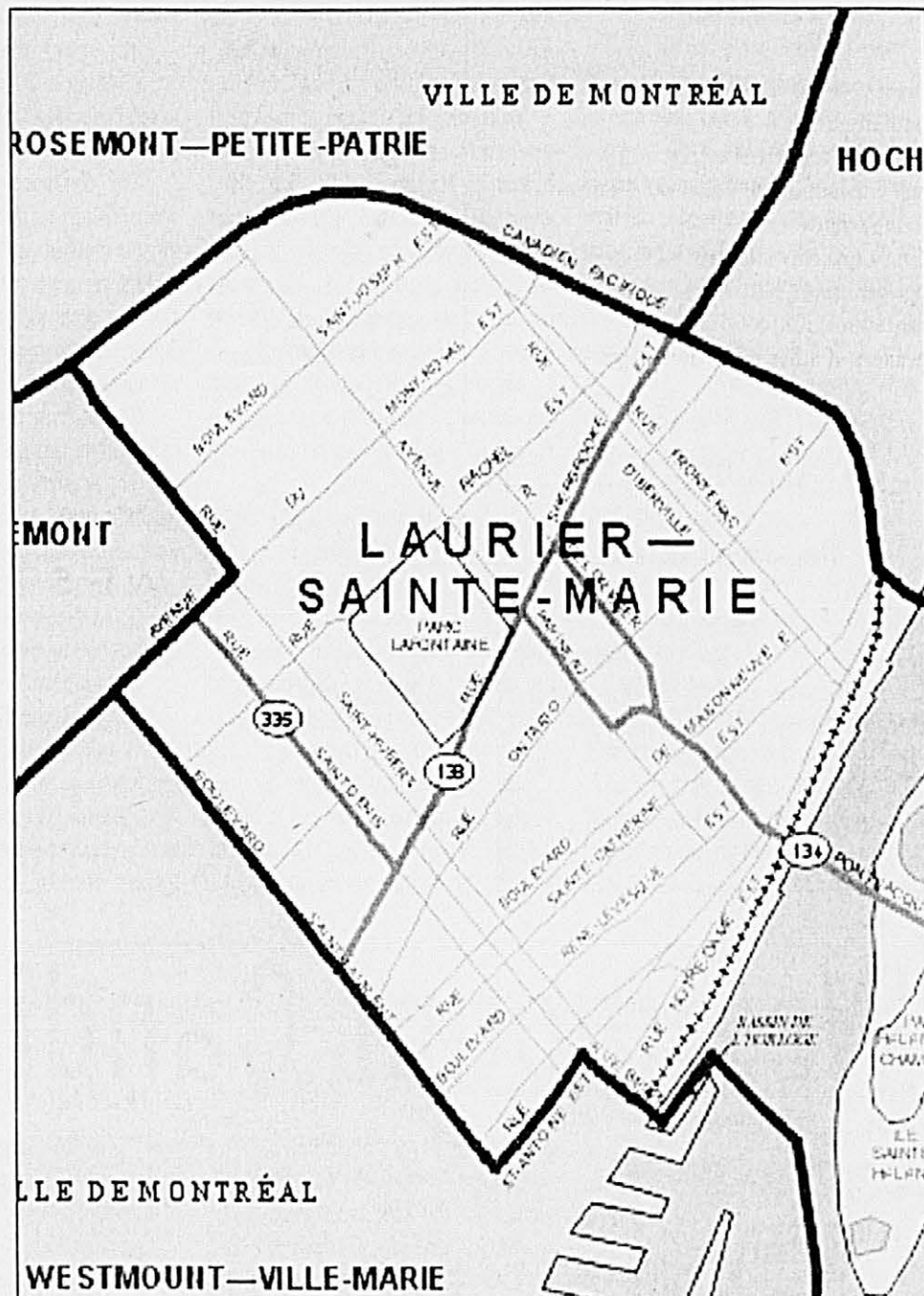
Jean-François Tessier is 21 years old and is a classical studies student at University de Montreal. He has lived all his life on the South shore. Tessier has only recently joined the Progressive Conservative Party and this is his first time running as a candidate for his party.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"It is downtown Montreal and it is one of the poorest ridings in Canada. The issues are crime and poverty and drugs. They are the same issues as you can find in all big cities around the world."

RICHARD CHARTIER, NDP

Richard Chartier, 40, graduated from University where he studied social work, history and political science. Chartier is an avid community activist in such areas as the environment and gay and lesbian



rights and liberties. Chartier has been involved in politics since his youth.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Laurier-Saint-Marie?

"Fighting Poverty. This is one of the poorest ridings in the country. We have to help finance community groups and local initiatives working against poverty, as well as increase employment opportunities."

ALSO RUNNING IN LAURIER-SAINTE-MARIE:

- Boutet, Ginette (Marxist-Leninist)
- St-Maurice, Marc-Boris (Marijuana Party)

How You CAN VOTE

If you've missed the November 21st deadline for applying to vote by special ballot, do not fret. According to an agent at Elections Canada, it is a 'special privilege' of students to vote in the riding

where they are studying. Registration for voting in your riding can be done either in advance of November 27th, at your local riding office, or on polling day at your local polling station - phone your riding office to find out where your nearest polling station is located. Identification needed to register includes one piece of ID containing both your name and signature, a utility or phone bill that contains both your name and address, and of course your student card. Register in advance to avoid long line-ups on polling day - the addresses, telephone number and operating hours of your local riding office are listed below.

RIDING OFFICE FOR LAURIER-SAINTE-MARIE

1001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. East, 10th floor, Suite 1025
 Montréal, Québec
 H2L 4P9
 Telephone: (514) 496-1151
 Fax: (514) 496-1382
 Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday: noon - 4 p.m. (local time)

Local Riding

Westmount-Ville-Marie

Traditionally a liberal stronghold, Liberal MP of the mountain and the Chemin Remembrance, the riding continues southward to Atwater St. and St. Lucienne Robillard currently holds the riding of Patrick St. With two universities in the riding, McGill Westmount-Ville-Marie. The riding extends east as far as St. Laurent St. and Berri St. and extends westward and Concordia, university students make up roughly as far as Girouard Street. From its northern boundary half of the riding's residents.

FACTS

Current MP: Lucienne Robillard, Liberal
Population: 90,838
Number of registered voters: 64,289
Voter turnout in 1997 general election: 70.7%
Unemployment rate: 12.1%
No. of University students: 48,355
Anglophone: 34,730
Francophone: 28,080
Speakers of other native languages: 27,160

CANDIDATES

LUCIENNE ROBILLARD, LIBERAL

Born in Montreal in 1945, Lucienne Robillard holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Montreal (1967), a diploma in Administration (1983), and an M.B.A. (1986), from the Montreal's École des hautes études commerciales. Since 1995, Robillard has served as Minister of Labour, Minister responsible for the federal campaign in the Quebec referendum, and as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

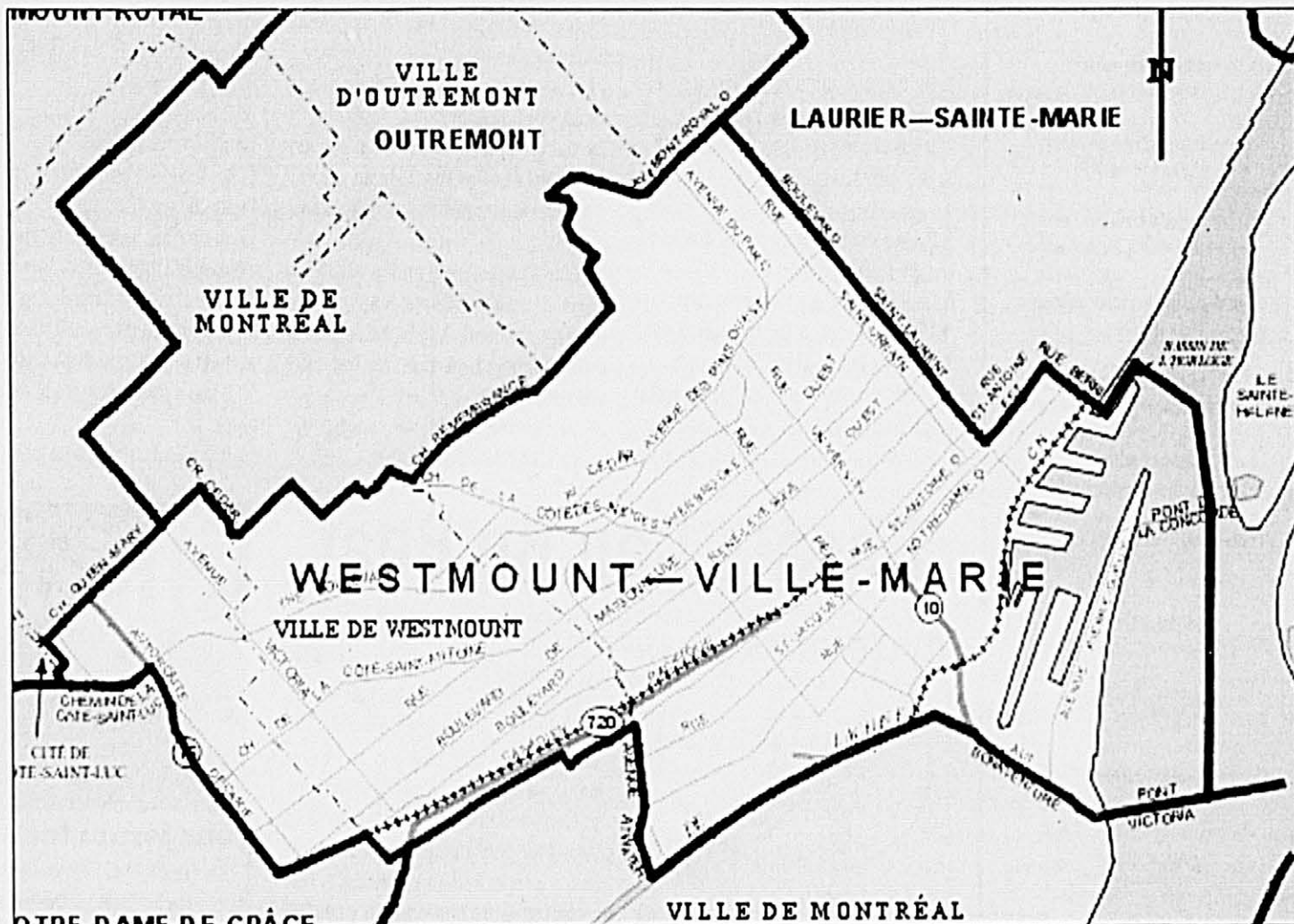


What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

"The main issue for the riding is that the 10,000 employers for the riding be able to create more jobs, that the community organisations will give more services and that the youth have more opportunity to learn and find jobs."

WILLY BLomme, NDP

Willy Blomme is a 19-year-old UO Arts student at McGill University. She is involved in a variety of groups on campus including NDP McGill, FTAA Alert, the Save The Daily Coalition and is also involved in Theatre. Heavily immersed in the NDP Youth wing, Blomme has served as Women's Co-ordinator for New Democratic Youth



of Canada, as a federal and provincial council delegate, as well as Women's Director for Ontario's provincial youth wing.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

"Considering there are two universities in this riding, tuition cuts are very important. The NDP is the only party proposing to rollback tuition fees to 1995 levels."

MARCELA VALDIVIA, BLOC QUEBECOIS

Born in Quillota Chile, Marcela Valdivia is a holder of a Joint-Doctorate in Communications from the University of Quebec in Montreal and Concordia University (1995). She obtained a licence to practice law from the University of Ottawa and has practised law privately since 1998.



What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

"Here it is important for the federal government to understand the message of those who are excluded such as itinerant persons."

BRIAN SARWER-FONER, GREEN PARTY

A long time environmentalist, Brian Sarwer-Foner holds BSc. in Biology, a Diploma in environmental studies and a Masters in Natural Resource Sciences all from McGill University. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in communications at McGill. An avid nature and animal lover, Sarwer-Foner hopes to address the global environmental crisis by running for office under the green party banner.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

"Reassessing our own attitudes, values and behaviours, and the impacts that they inflict on the environment. We must try to develop a program to embark on changing these."

FELIX COTTE, CANADIAN ALLIANCE

Felix Cotte is 25 years old and is currently an E-Commerce entrepreneur and Business consultant. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with a degree in Business Management. He has been involved with the Canadian Alliance since July 2000.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

Their main issue is always health. When I phone them they are always very concerned about the health question and change regarding cancer treatment, aids treatment and the lack of research.

BRYAN PRICE, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

Born in Montreal, Brian Price is 35 years old. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Queens University and also holds an International M.B.A. from York University. He is currently working at sprint Canada, as a director for business development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Price has been involved with the Progressive Conservatives for the past four years.

What do you think is the main issue facing the constituents of Westmount-Ville-Marie?

"Their main preoccupation is municipal murders, and the defence of minority rights in Quebec."

ALSO RUNNING IN WESTMOUNT-VILLE-MARIE:

- Saroj Bains (Marxist-Leninist)
- Patrice Caron (Marijuana Party)
- Michel Laporte (Nothing Party)
- Allen Faguy (Natural Law Party)

How You Can Vote

(See Laurier-Saint-Marie)

RIDING OFFICE FOR WESTMOUNT-VILLE-MARIE

Place Université
 1255 University, Suite 200
 Montréal, Québec H3B 3W1
 Telephone: (514) 283-5600 Fax: (514) 283-5593
 Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday: noon - 4 p.m. (local time)

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3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-03,
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6784, fax: 514.398.8318
www.mcgilldaily.com
editors@mcgilldaily.com

business and advertising office:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-07, Montreal
QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6790, fax: 514.398.8318
ads@mcgilldaily.com

co-ordinating editor:

BEN ERRETT

co-ordinating news editor:

JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

news editors:

JON BRICKER, SIMON RABINOVITCH

co-ordinating culture editor:

TYLER HARGREAVES

culture editors:

JEAN EDELSTEIN, J. KELLY NESTRUCK

features editor:

PAUL REEVE

production and design editors:

SALLY WARNER, JAMES YAP

photo editors:

BRIE O'KEEFE, PIERRE-ALAIN PARFOND

mind&body editor:

SARI LONG

copy editor:

EMILY JOHNSON

online editor:

LOUIGI ADDARIO-BERRY

contributors:

MARK YOUNG, SAMI REISS, PATRICK GUYER,
SARAH LAZAROVIC, SEAN MICHAELS, ZACK
FINKELSTEIN, CAMILLI BARCHIELLO, JULIE
GERARD, MATT SHERKEN, ARNE ARNOT,
MATTHEW SHEREN, CAROLYN LEFEVRE, HOLLY
BECK, PHILIP TODD, K.C. CHUNG, PAUL BERRY

cover design:

BEN ERRETT, SALLY WARNER

défilé français:

PHILIPPINE DE T'SERCLAES

business manager:

MARIAN SCHRIER

assistant business manager:

PIERRE BOUILLON

advertising management:

SASHA DECHENE, BORIS SHELDOV

advertising layout and design:

CAMERON CAMPBELL

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We did it on purpose

editorial



Yeah, so there was no Page Four in Monday's issue. We know. Of course we know. In fact, it was on purpose. We deleted Page Four for a number of reasons. In no particular order:

1. At the last minute, we changed our minds about the Page Four girl.
2. It was our feel good story about SSMU.
3. The Daily has leprosy.
- 4.
5. If it is a slow news day, we just don't have enough stuff to report on.
6. Our office is so big that we couldn't find it. (*Ed.: this problem has been dealt with*)
7. Wojtek asked us not to print it.
8. There is a "No Page Four" lobby group that is finally getting to some of us.
9. Four was a bit shy on Monday: we man-

aged to talk him out of it for this issue.

10. Some editors were out at a bar.
11. It was invisible ink.
12. Godot was bringing it. He'll be here any minute.
13. The Alliance needed the big white space to represent how Canada would look under their immigration policy.
14. It was supposed to be an ad for a hotel in Shawinigan but they were short of cash.
15. Didn't you get the decoder glasses?
16. Origami, origami, origami.
17. What better way to represent the marginalized than extra big margins?
18. Sarvesh Srivastava was holding his ad till the last minute and then didn't show.
19. It was news on American elections and we decided it was irrelevant.
20. Out of sensitivity to our Asian brothers and sisters who find Four to be an unlucky number, we removed the copy from that page.
21. Alan Thicke stole it on the way to the printer. (Damn that George Seaver!)
22. Write your own article and lay it out contest! Send it back to us, the best entry will get an apple.
23. At the last minute, we changed our minds about the Page Four boy.

24. It couldn't take Canada's oppressive taxes and went to be Page Four in the Harvard Crimson.
25. We thought the news section was looking too "text-heavy".
25. The story is there, but only the truly intelligent can read it.
26. Ink was too expensive.
27. We wanted to utilize white space.
28. We decided that articles are distracting from the ads.
29. We launched our new "Space&Void" section.
30. Special Notes section! Exams are coming up, and it was a subtle reminder.
31. Now we not only have a hidden agenda, we have a hidden page.
32. Business Office used all the hot wax up during "personal time."
33. It's the New New New New Journalism.
34. It's the economy, stupid.
35. At the last minute, we changed our minds about the Page Four hermaphrodite.
36. Page Four died for your sins.
37. It wasn't quality. And if it's not quality, we don't print it. And that's final.
38. It was a photo essay of a blinding snow-storm.
39. It featured a story about John Cleghorn

getting an honorary degree.

40. It was a breather page to pace yourself.
41. It's in a better place now, Billy.
42. Professor Kuhner took it with him.
43. Yes, Virginia, there is a Page Four. It exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.
44. Neville Chamberlain promised us Page Four In Our Time.
45. At the last minute, we changed our minds about the Page Four Luc Vinet. In retrospect, we made the wrong decision on that one.
46. Used it to wrap up leftover grilled swordfish with Dijon from production night.
47. Get on the bus, Gus.
48. You won't have Page Four to kick around anymore.
49. McPhee cut its funding.
50. We were tired, it was late, we needed the money, we didn't think anyone was looking and it seemed like a good idea at the time, oh we didn't know and we're so sorry, please take us back, we'll treat you better this time, please we swear, at least we're still better than The Bottom Line.

Cheats Can Be Beat

hyde park



BY CLARA PÉRON

I am writing in response to your Nov. 13th article entitled 'Cheating in an Electronic Age.' While I am glad that you are raising awareness about the increased facility with which students can cheat with the multiplication of websites that sell term papers, I am afraid that the article led people to believe that cheating is a hopeless case, that the number of cases will only increase as electronic resources become more available to students, and that nothing can be done to reverse the trend.

While some universities have tired to 'combat' plagiarism by changing the rules - instituting honour codes, making students sign a pledge to academic integrity upon acceptance - I believe that changing the context in which our courses are given can lead to a more significant decrease in the number of cases of plagiarism.

Our current situation of overcrowded

classrooms and little contact with professors is a breeding ground for plagiarism. With little help and guidance, especially during the first year of university, students feel alienated from their professors and therefore do not sense a responsibility towards the professors to learn the material covered in lectures or to challenge themselves when writing a paper by thinking critically. This is why I stress the importance of changing the learning environment in order to decrease the incentive to cheat.

Here are some suggestions as to how this environment can be changed:

- decreasing class sizes
- increasing guidance (more advisors) and contact especially in the first-year experience (having mandatory conferences or tutorials for classes where the enrolment is 60 students or more)
- Incorporating research into undergraduate learning (by exposing undergraduates to research environments, students can first-hand experience what academic integrity means)
- Have first-year courses or advising sessions include an educational component on how to properly reference and cite sources.

All this to say that preventing cheating is not a hopeless case.

Clara Péron is Vice President, University Affairs of the Students Society.

Slibel & Lander

Remains of
The Day
Lunchboxes
for all!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

In a strange bid to shore up the crucial small-town anglophone **Ontario housewife vote**, Gilles Duceppe made an appearance on CBC's This Morning on Tuesday. He scored massive points by mentioning his days crusading for social justice with the kids from **The Daily** in the 1960s...And now, a public service message. We found an agenda hidden under the **Charles Krauthammer Memorial Couch** here in The Daily's office. If anyone would like to claim this **hidden agenda**, please feel free to come by and pick it up. Please check wetsuits at the door...**Adrienne "and you're not"** Clarkson seems to be taking a page from The Daily's Statement of Principles in her redefinition of the job of Governor-General. She told a British tabloid earlier this week that she sees herself as a "**voice for the voiceless**," a line right out of this paper's mission statement. If the policy exchange continues, look forward to seeing **Daily editors wearing bathrobes** to official public ceremonies...Slibel can't miss the silly election posters hanging

everywhich way but loose these days, and she's particularly amused by Tory Bryan Price's effort. The young man looks as though he's **plotting to take over the world** in his poster pic, smirking nefariously at passers-by. Perhaps he shouldn't have saddled his ambitions to a moribund party on the fast track to 1993's two-seat record...and how 'bout that **Ed Broadbent**? Can Slibel open the Globe without seeing him? The man's bigger than Oprah. Perhaps he should start his own magazine, entitled Broadbent. Slibel would subscribe in a **New York minute**.

ON TRACK **ON CRACK**

ON TRACK: Bacon. The inexpensive tasty breakfast meat just never fails to impress. Why must it be so tasty? Why?

ON CRACK: Them nutty Alliance racists. The best part of Betty Granger's rant was when she referred to the shut-down of Hong Kong. Did they flash the lights on and off five minutes before closing time?

On Monday, the whole country will be counting on you to make an extremely important decision.

Do you laugh hysterically at the sheer ridiculousness of The Daily's whiz-bang Comix issue or sob uncontrollably for the souls of the cartoonists? Either way, it's a must read if you enjoy looking at silly drawings with funny words on them. (Steve Barker is resting up and drinking plenty of fluids for the big issue, so Titans of Literature vs. Famous Movie Monsters are taking the day off today.)



BY NICHOLAS LITTLE

The Daily's Queer Issue drums up both intrigue and fear in my heart due to its double report card nature of demonstrating how much we have progressed while simultaneously revealing the degree to which we are still embarrassingly self-repressed. On the whole, however, I thought our report card was pretty good - though some of the articles read more as a polite but boring tribute to a

retiring colleague that nobody liked instead of a testament to that passionate feeling of pride that I hope other out and proud queers like myself know and vibrantly recreate on a day-to-day basis.

Emily Harris-McLeod and Jan Schotte did a remarkable job of throwing off the tired, objectified image of gays so common in mainstream media. It is refreshing to read queer journalism that recognizes the diversity present within the homo community beyond the lifeless, stereotypical facades that both the straight and gay status quo prescribe. Long live journalism which presents an image of the homo who is full-bodied, three dimensional, and inclusive of the complexity that the life of any human on this planet entails. How

brilliant to read an article contrasting hip hop and queendom that goes beyond sensationalized stories of the latest attention-seeking statement to come out of corporate-created Eminem's mouth, and instead focuses on underground music that explores what it would mean if we recognized gays who do not spend their lives obsessing over the novelty act which was their coming-out. Indeed, some of us are actually clued into culture beyond cardboard cut-out icons and gag at the thought of our exiting the closet being the pinnacle achievement for which we will be remembered. If only we told stories as vibrant as the world we live in! Kudos to Harris and Schotte for tapping into that.

That being said, I cringed at Marla

Arbach's misdirected contributions to the issue. Homosexuality takes on its meaning only when we personalize and localize the individuals who make up the collective culture. Her review of 101 Reykjavik read like political candidates at election time trying to win over the minorities they formerly ignored. I laughed openly when she remarked that the storyline of the film might "never happen in real life" and then asked: "How many guys do you know whose mothers have lesbian lovers...?" I know several, Marla. Statements like these make me wonder if the 'Queer Issue' is actually intended as a genuine representation of the diversity which is queer culture, or if it would have been better subtitled as: "Writing passion-less, naïve articles

about the minority-of-the-week since 1911".

Publishing an issue which is written by and for both the queer and straight communities and which centers around the interaction of the two is a brilliant idea. I admire The Daily's commitment to representing diversity at McGill, but I admire it even more when it does so in a way that displays the incredible complexity of character with which each of us is embodied.

Diversity is a thousand times better than the lifeless homogeneity that the mainstream would have us be. Hurrah, hurrah!!

Nicholas Little is a U1 Arts student

letters



STAY ON ONE SIDE!

Due to the apartment crisis in the Ghetto this summer and to my procrastination, I had the misfortune of having to take a place in Montreal's Snowdon district. As a result I must take two metros to get to school. What I don't understand about Montrealers is why they must occupy (ie stand) both sides of the escalators, especially during rush hour. Why is there no proper escalator etiquette like in Toronto or London, England. That is, people who stand stay on the right and people who choose to walk have a clear path on the left side. But no, in this city with a "laissez-faire" attitude, no one feels like they are in a rush, and make people in a hurry wait behind their lazy asses. See in Toronto, there's progress, time is money and no one has time to waste. I guess people here have no reason to rush. Afterall, this city's been in stasis since the Quiet Revolution.

E.Amzallag
U1 Physiology

RESPONSE FROM ARA

I was pleased to read Joseph Quesnel's criticisms of Anti-Racist Action ("ARA Threat To Freedom of Speech," Letters, November 20th). His letter was a marked

improvement over the threatening emails he sent to ARA McGill members in February, apparently provoked by our support for the Lubicon Cree band.

Contrary to Mr. Quesnel's beliefs, ARA is not attempting to "tell anyone how to think or feel." Nor were we interested in censoring Leni Riefenstahl when we expressed our concern over the souvenir calendar of her Nazi-era photographs being sold by the McGill Bookstore. Our concern was that, by selling the work of a Nazi propagandist, removed entirely from the context in which it was produced, the bookstore and, by extension, the University, would be promoting and profiting from genocide.

It is offensive and irresponsible to take the art of Ms. Riefenstahl out of the context in which she made it - for the promotion of Nazi Germany's "final solution." Ms. Riefenstahl can photograph, paint, or film anything she chooses to. But the McGill bookstore is under no obligation to assist her to profit from her efforts. Nor do we feel it appropriate for a McGill institution to commodify and decontextualize components of the Nazi propaganda machine to sell those components as decorations.

It is disheartening that Mr. Quesnel was "horrified" by what he grossly

misinterpreted as "left-wing censorship" by our student club. One would think that attempts to profit from Nazi propaganda by concealing its contributions towards fascism and the Holocaust would be far more horrifying to any right-thinking person.

Santbir Singh
U2 Sociology
McGill Anti-Racist Action

RESIDENCES WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS

In reference to the article "Residences Becoming Targets for Unsolicited Advertising," in the November 20 issue, I must say that I agree with the aggravations of residence students, being one myself. However, I feel compelled to respond to the comments made by Sam "Sugar Sammy" Khullar as reported in the article. First of

all, though the students in residences are a large market group, it is not the responsibility of residences to promote non-university functions. Free magazines such as Hour, Mirror, Voir, and Ici are available in all the lobbies of the residences, and students may find much information there. All over the McGill Campus there is advertising for different clubs and events. But the spaces for posters in residences are restricted (at least in theory) to university-related organizations, such as Faculty/Departmental events etc. I take offense to the comment that someone has "hired tyrants to scare away my flyer team." Promotion has been discouraged and denied when possible for such events and the administration, students, and hall councils of residences have every right to do so. Mr. Khullar continues to complain

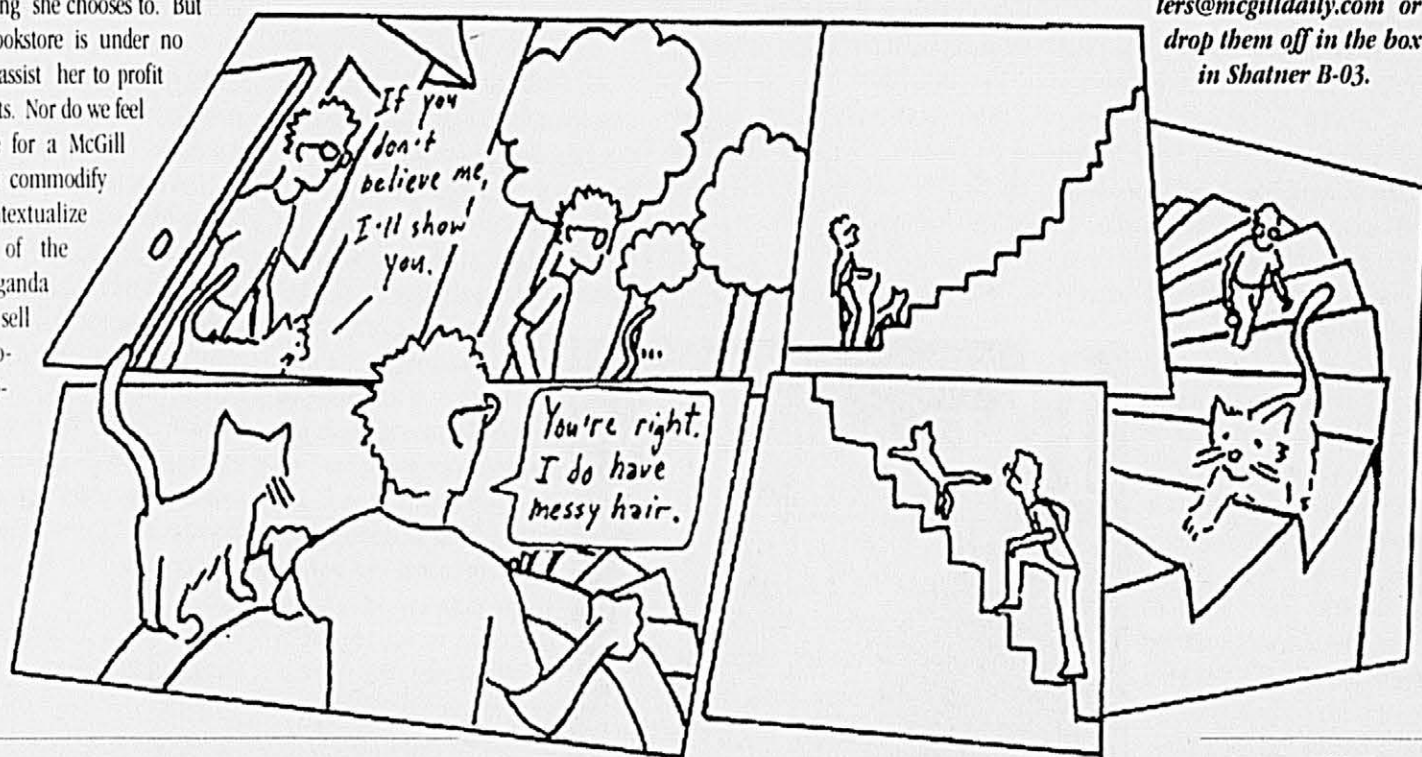
of "the head of [a] residence" tore down a poster of his, noting his wonder at "who's training these people." I myself am one of the co-presidents of Molson Hall, and I am partly responsible for social animation. Unless the poster has a residences stamp, it cannot go up on the walls.

Residences are here to provide a place for students to live and an environment in which to grow and feel secure during a tumultuous year. It is not the personal marketing ground for the capital gains of a club promoter.

Christoph Sprecher
U2 German Studies
Co-President, Molson Hall

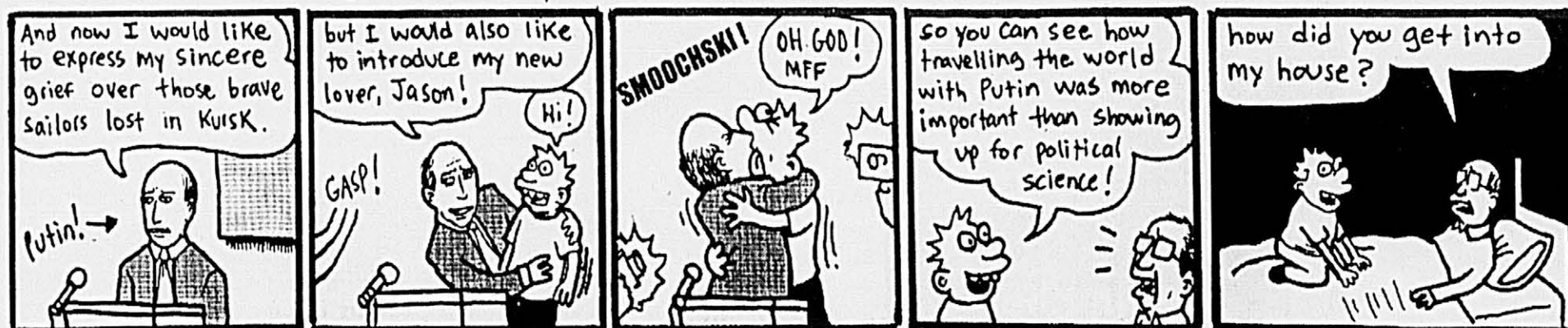
The Daily always welcomes your letters to the editor. Please keep them under 300 words and send them to us at letters@mcgilldaily.com or drop them off in the box in Shatner B-03.

A MAN AND HIS CAT by John Paul Koning



comics@mcgilldaily.com

AIN'T LIFE ODD by Mike Winters



The Culture Jammer in Person

Author, editor, activist Kalle Lasn sits down, but doesn't shut up

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY
The McGill Daily

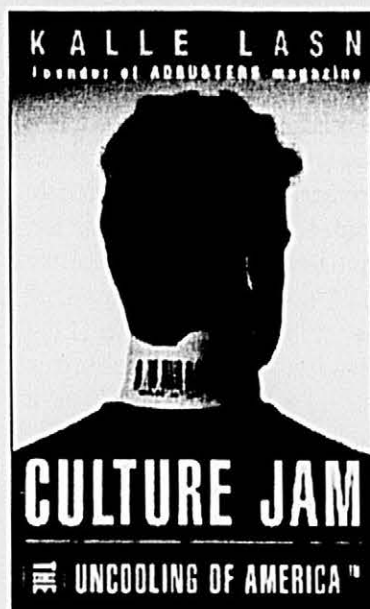
Most students who have an opinion on the matter seem to think that the majority of international corporations are inherently evil.

Perhaps this is why Vancouver-based Adbusters Media Foundation has a cult-like following among young people, and has been at the forefront of the grassroots movement to combat corporate big brotherhood. The mission statement of the Foundation declares, "We are a global network of artists, writers, students, educators, and entrepreneurs who want to launch the new social-activist movement of the information age. Our goal is to galvanize resistance against those who would destroy the environment, pollute our minds, and diminish our lives. To this end, Adbusters Media Foundation publishes Adbusters magazine, operates a website, and offers its creative services through PowerShift, our advocacy advertising agency."

At the helm of this continually accelerating vessel, is Kalle Lasn, editor and contributor to Adbusters magazine and author of *Culture Jam: The Uncooling of America*. *Culture Jam* is considered by some to be the apogee of Lasn's activism, which spans more than a decade. Following a career in advertising in Tokyo, Lasn moved to Canada and became a documentary filmmaker. While watching a local forestry company promote their clearcutting as "forest management," he put together his own promotional campaign to counter the corporate stance. It was from this point that the seed was planted.

In his book, Lasn documents the basic views that he shares with numerous other anti-corporate activists, primarily in the context of the United States. Regarding the history of the US, Lasn writes, "The unofficial history of the United States is quite different [from that taught in schools]. It begins the same way in the revolutionary cauldron of colonial America, but then it takes a turn. A bit player in the official history becomes critically important to the way the unofficial history unfolds. This player turns out to be not only the provocateur of the revolution, but, in the end, its saboteur. This player lies at the heart of America's defining theme: the difference between a country that pretends to be free and a country that truly is free. That player is the corporation."

In combatting this player, Lasn and Adbusters have initiated countless campaigns that have grown from domestic, to national, to international levels. Other than Friday's Buy Nothing Day, another large campaign being emphasized this fall is the Big Question. The Big Question, in the words of Adbusters, "asks economic policy makers how they define 'progress' and challenges



them to come up with a better answer than GNP before the social and environmental effects of globalization become irreversible."

Another major Adbusters campaign is TV Turnoff Week, which is scheduled to take place this April. Moving beyond questions of lifestyle choices, TV Turnoff Week focuses primarily on freedom of expression on the airwaves.

Yet another popular campaign for Lasn and Adbusters is their organized Phillip Morris boycott. The boycott goes beyond an abstention from buying multinationals' tobacco products. It includes boycotting the countless food products that the corporation owns and distributes. These food products include Miller beer, Post cereals, Kraft, Maxwell House and Sanka coffees, and Philadelphia cream cheese.

The unofficial leader of the anti-corporatization movement and its campaigns, Kalle Lasn spoke with The McGill Daily about corporations, Adbusters and passion.

The McGill Daily: What do you think of the Zoom Media Special Forces Unit replacing the Adbusters anti-ads in the bathrooms at McGill?

Kalle Lasn: I heard that this is hap-

pening at a number of universities now and that they actually threatened to sue some of the universities for not complying with their agreement or something. I heard that they are also threatening to sue one of the student federations or something and that they are on the verge of bankruptcy. It is clearly hurting them so finally a bit of culture jamming is doing some good. I'm so glad to hear that. I hope it happens again and again.

MD: What can you tell us about the origins of Adbusters and its campaigns?

KL: Well, we started in 1989 and it grew out of a fight that we had here with the forest industry. They had this \$6-million campaign called Forests Forever and we'd always hear about what a great job they were doing managing our forests here. It was blatant misinformation, so a group of us got together and came up with our own 30-second spot that tried to tell the other side of the story.

To our shock and dismay, when we tried to buy airtime for that spot, the stations in Vancouver refused to sell us airtime. These were the same stations that were selling time to the forestry industry. It was something that outraged us to the point where we launched this non-profit media foundation and everything we've done since, the magazine, the PowerShift advertising agency, the Culture Jammers website, and even the Culture Jammers movement is all due to that one incident that got us really pissed off.

MD: What has the effect been so far on corporate campaigns and advertising?

KL: I think that the effect on corporations has actually been minimal. I think that the real positive things that we have done over the past 10 years is legitimize a new kind of social activism. It has led to the realization that it is no longer about black liberation and race and gender and not so much even about environmentalism and nature, but it is actually a culture that needs to be contested. If we, the people, lose control of our own culture, we stop telling the stories and singing the songs. If we lose control of our culture, then we have lost everything and, with all these other fights, we won't be able to win them anymore because someone else controls the culture, somebody else controls the production and distribution of meaning in our society.

MD: Adbusters has become a far more mainstream movement. Does this compromise its legitimacy?

KL: I think that all movements have a springtime and then a summertime and then they go into autumn. Organizations are a little bit like



that too, Greenpeace is now in its autumn I believe, and the feminism movement is now in its autumn. I think we're in the tail end of spring, myself. I think that certain campaigns like Buy Nothing Day have gone mainstream and, with TV Turnoff Week, I watch it go by every year and I don't pay too much mind anymore. Those are two big campaigns that were fairly edgy 10 years ago. They are now kind of mainstream and there is nothing wrong with that, but I think that winning a Canadian Charter legal action against broadcasters and winning the right to buy airtime and starting to fight head-on-head with all the corporations and fast food and fashion and automobiles, that particular battle hasn't even started yet. The groundwork hasn't quite been set yet. We haven't even got the legal right to walk into stations and buy airtime yet, so I think we're at the tail end of spring and not even at the beginning of summer yet.

MD: Any new campaigns or ideas planned for the future?

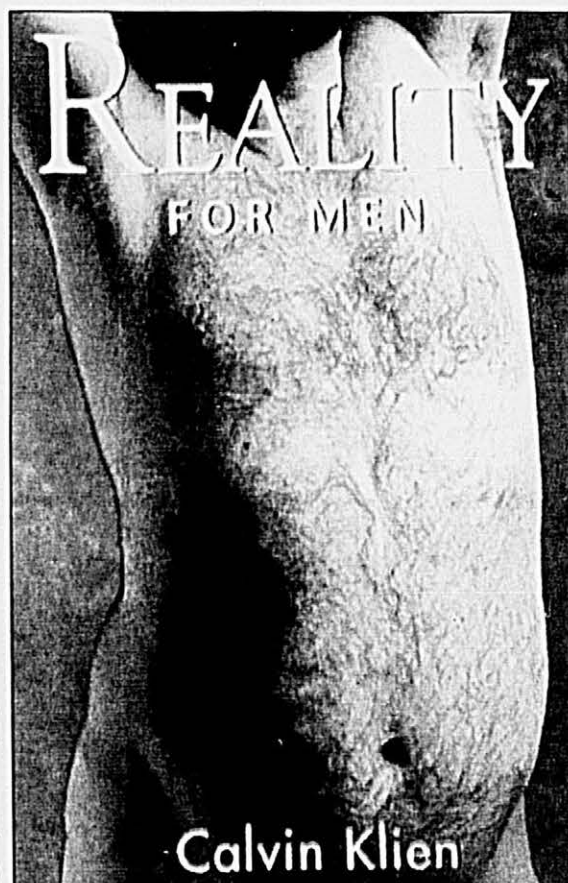
KL: I think that the WTO (World Trade Organization) and this whole fight against corporate power is the essence of this struggle of the last 10 years. We used to worry about governments getting too much power and lording it over us in that kind of Orwellian Big Brother scenario. Now I think we're not into that at all. Many people can't get used to the fact that we're actually more into a Huxleyan kind of scenario where corporations have gained control of the media and gained control of our nutritional agenda and our various other agendas. We've hardly

noticed this, thinking they are still our friends.

I think this fight against the growing power of transnational corporations and reinventing this relationship that we have with corporations is going to be a big struggle over the next 10 years. I think that culture jamming will play a great part in that struggle.

MD: Where does this passion for your movement come from?

KL: It isn't so much passion. It's just rage and anger. I can't stand to live in a society where corporations tell me what music is cool and what is cool to wear and how our government's economic policy should be run and so on. For me it's the anger and the rage that makes me fight against this. Maybe after the rage there comes a bit of passion, but it's not something that is necessarily enjoyable or anything, it's just something that I feel I have to do just to remain authentic. I just can't stand to live in this kind of a world. The rage was underneath for the past 20 years for me. It really came to a head when I spent \$10,000 of my money and made this TV spot and I put it under my arm and I walked into my local television station here in Vancouver and the bastards wouldn't sell me any airtime. In other words, this sort of pro-consumption paradigm had progressed to the point where they can't even tolerate a certain amount of democratic dissent on the public airwaves. That was the moment in 1989 when my rage started to surface. I just couldn't take it anymore.



Marketing the Mind: Students the Hottest Market Target

BY DAVE CROTHALL AND CHRISTY LIGHTOWERS
The Marlet, Victoria

Asking a grade three class to construct a Nike shoe complete with swoosh logo may sound absurd, but it has happened.

As schools in North America renegotiate their principles on private sponsorship, companies as powerful as Nike are stepping foot inside the classroom.

Marketing to students in North American schools has always meant big business as today's teens make up approximately 25 percent of North America's population.

Market Source, a US-based marketing firm that openly advocates the commercialization of schools, claims that there are 70 million consumers born after 1979. Aiming a question at such "Fortune 500" clients as Microsoft and Pfizer, Market Source asks, "Can you afford to miss out on that much business?"

With television viewing at an all time low, marketing firms are looking elsewhere to capture the attention of the young mind. Today, schools in both the US and Canada are adopting Channel One "educational programming" every morning where students are subjected to two minutes of advertising. In return the school is allowed to use the audio-visual equipment in other classes.

The growing trend is obvious, schools have become complacent in treating students as clients and consumers, as opposed to citizens with a right to an education free of commercial influence. School textbooks have covers featuring multiple advertisements. School cafeterias are commonly home to fast food restaurant kiosks which are more expensive than cafeterias and, in many cases, do not accept lunch vouchers available to lower income kids.

In an effort to manipulate a trend, marketing firms will use people as "walking infomercials." These people will wear, eat or drink their sponsor's product in addition to promoting the products by word of mouth.

The "walking infomercial" phenomena recently gained attention in the US when two New Jersey students decided to become "spokesguys" for prospective companies. Hoping to acquire sponsorships to cover the cost of tuition, Chris Barret and Luke McCabe, 17, agreed to sport branded clothing, host branded parties and drink branded beverages. McCabe even vowed to brand himself with a corporate tattoo for the right price.

As part of any agreement that the two

sign with corporations, there will be a code of conduct with which they must abide to. According to the pair's publicist, Karen Ammond, "The corporation will now become the parent."

With many schools in need of more funds for a growing student body that is receiving less public financial

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Buy Nothing Day
Nov.26.2000

- JAPAN -

pleasure of the students. The students researched PepsiCo and discovered the company's dealings in Burma, the brutal dictatorship now called Myanmar. PepsiCo was producing and selling its soft drinks there, as well as being invested in an openly anti-democratic-owned Burmese bottling plant. Members of the Free Burma Coalition and universities worldwide requested additional information from the Carleton University students, which resulted in rejected contracts between PepsiCo and Harvard in 1996. The spread of information eventually led to such a considerable worldwide student boycott that PepsiCo announced its total disengagement from Burma in January 1997.

Tactics akin to Adbusters' "culture jamming," educate readers about the hidden truth underlying advertisements. Even though corporate sponsoring of schools and people provides each with the necessary finances to survive, the control that these corporations exert is tremendous.

Perhaps the largest fear of the increasing commercialization of schools and youth is what Klein calls "the colonization of the mind." We must realize that ad-free space, which doesn't advocate an idea or doesn't try to sell us a product or doesn't encourage us to increase our heinous rate of consumption, is necessary space and we have every right to have it.

support, what can be done to give young people a commercial-free zone for their studies?

No Logo author Naomi Klein argues that we need to acknowledge the tremendous buying power held by North American schools. The private-public partnership between schools and corporations can be used to exert pressure on corporate ethics.

"Young activists have begun to use their status as sought-after sponsors to retaliate against forces they considered invasive on their campuses to begin with," says Klein.

"In this volatile context, a particularly aggressive sponsorship deal can act as a political catalyst, instigating a wide-ranging debate on everything from unfair labour conditions to trading with dictators."

At the University of Victoria, the senate voted to refuse scholarship money from Shell because of their alleged human rights abuses in Nigeria.

According to Klein, other solutions can be found in alternative media, such as Adbusters and Ralph Nader's Commercial Alert.

One example of the power of student activism occurred in 1993 at Ottawa's Carleton University. There, PepsiCo made a vending deal with the campus, much to the dis-



- NEW ZEALAND -



- SAN FRANCISCO, USA -

Buy Nothing Day Calls for Ethical Consumption

BY SAROM BAIK AND JOEL TRENNAMAN
The Peak, Vancouver
The Manitoban, Winnipeg

On Friday, shoppers worldwide will celebrate their consumer power by purchasing absolutely nothing.

November 24 marks the eighth year Buy Nothing Day, a 24-hour moratorium on consumer spending, will be celebrated.

The international anti-consumerism demonstration, the brainchild of Vancouverite Ted Dave, was started in 1992 by Adbusters Media Foundation, publishers of Adbusters magazine. Buy Nothing Day is celebrated the Friday following American Thanksgiving which also happens to coincide with the beginning of the Christmas shopping rush.

Adbusters campaign manager Tom Liacas says the day is meant to be a starting point for dialogue about consumerism and over-consumption.

"It opens the door to discussion about the global economy and whether or not it's ethical to continue over-consuming in the First World when we're doing it at the expense of the rest of the world's resources," says Liacas.

According to Adbusters, North Americans' buying habits are causing irreparable damage to the earth. Twenty percent of the planet's most privileged citizens, it claims, are devouring 80 per cent of the earth's natural resources. "The fact is that in First World countries, we have become no longer citizens or people. We are definitely a culture of consumers," says Liacas. He says an increasingly xenocentric mentality in the so called Third World is adding to the problem. "Down the road, we eventually have to face the fact that people in developing countries are seeking to emulate our lifestyle," he

says. "So, if they increase their consumption 50-fold, we're in big trouble."

Buy Nothing Day is now observed by people in more than 30 countries. Adbusters has produced a television "uncommercial" to promote the day, but major North American networks, including the CBC, have refused to air it.

ABC's senior vice-president of corporate communications Patti Matson said the television spots Adbusters has produced contravene major networks' policies.

"It's like putting an ad up in McDonald's saying 'don't eat a hamburger,'" she said. "Obviously this isn't something that we would accept."

In a letter sent to Adbusters, a CBS executive even calls the uncommercials "a demonstration in opposition to the current economic policy in the United States."

Although the foundation has reached an agreement with CNN to have its spots aired during Headline News, Liacas says the major networks' refusal to air the spots is "corporate censorship of messages they would not like to see alongside their own."

Despite networks' reluctance to air the spots, Liacas says Buy Nothing Day events will still garner public attention worldwide.

"Even if people can't go a day without buying anything, it's enough if they reflect on how much shopping is part of their lives and what we can do to fulfill that desire or emptiness that we try to fill instead with shopping," he says.

For more information on Buy Nothing Day and the Adbusters Media Foundation, check out their website, located at www.adbusters.org.



- ISRAEL -

All images are Buy Nothing Day posters from around the world

it's the end of montreal as we know it

Overhaul of city structure seems inevitable, and municipal mayors don't feel fine

BY JOSH BEITEL
The McGill Daily

Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque has had a dream for some time now: that the island of Montreal become a single entity, a megacity to be reckoned with on the global scene. Though his project of One Island, One City originally met with much scepticism, both on the provincial and municipal level, it has been gaining steam in the last few months. It is now supported by Lucien Bouchard and the Parti Québécois. It seems almost certain at this point that Bourque's dream will come true, in some form or another.

According to Bourque's plan, the island of Montreal would be divided up into nine districts, each with about 200,000 residents. As it stands now, Montreal is made up of 28 municipalities, each of which has control over most of their spending and revenue. The new city, however, would have financial control over all the districts, and would take over many services such as fire prevention. Bourque claimed that this would mean lower taxes for 75% of the island's residents, a freeze in taxes for 15%, and higher taxes for 10%, as well as an overall savings of about 115 million dollars for the city. Municipal mayors were not convinced, though, that there would be any saving. The municipalities also feared that Bourque's plan would entail paying more money for lower-quality services, as well as losing their sense of community.

In order to reach a compromise between Bourque's One Island, One City plan and the suburban mayors' demands for local autonomy and decentralized services, the provincial government called upon experienced politician Louis Bernard to come up with a new plan. The Bernard plan, released on October 11th, recommended for the city to be divided up into 27 districts, 18 of them corresponding to exist-

ing municipalities, and 9 of them coming from the dissolution of the Montreal Urban Community. The island's eight smallest municipalities, including Montreal West and Hampstead, are slated to disappear under the plan, and will be forced to join a neighbouring district. In the case of Montreal West, for instance, it seems most likely that it will join Côte-St-Luc.

The Bernard plan allowed for the districts to retain their current local services, including snow removal and garbage collection, as well as their bilingual status. The main difference between this plan and Bourque's plan was that citizens of all districts would pay taxes directly to the city of Montreal, and the city would allocate funds back to the districts, possibly on a per-capita basis. Each municipality would then have the option of levying their own tax on top of the city-wide tax in order to meet their specific needs.

There is one fundamental question that municipal mayors and residents have been asking all along: Why merge the municipalities in the first place? Bourque's answer is that he wants to create a Montreal that can compete internationally. Pierre-Yves Melançon, consultant to Mayor Bourque and representative of Côte-des-Neiges, says the goal of One Island, One City is to have "political unity on the island of Montreal in order to promote development. If we don't do anything we will no longer be able to compete with Toronto and with large American cities."

Municipal mayors dispute this claim, saying that most American cities operate similarly to the current city of Montreal. Westmount Mayor Peter Trent cites the city of Boston as an example: "The Boston region has 282 cities in it. It doesn't stop them from competing. Atlanta has 104. Throughout the world the only place that amalgamations are currently taking place is Ontario." Montreal West Mayor John Simms adds that "of the 19 [American cities] we looked at, all except three have

centre cores that are smaller than Montreal."

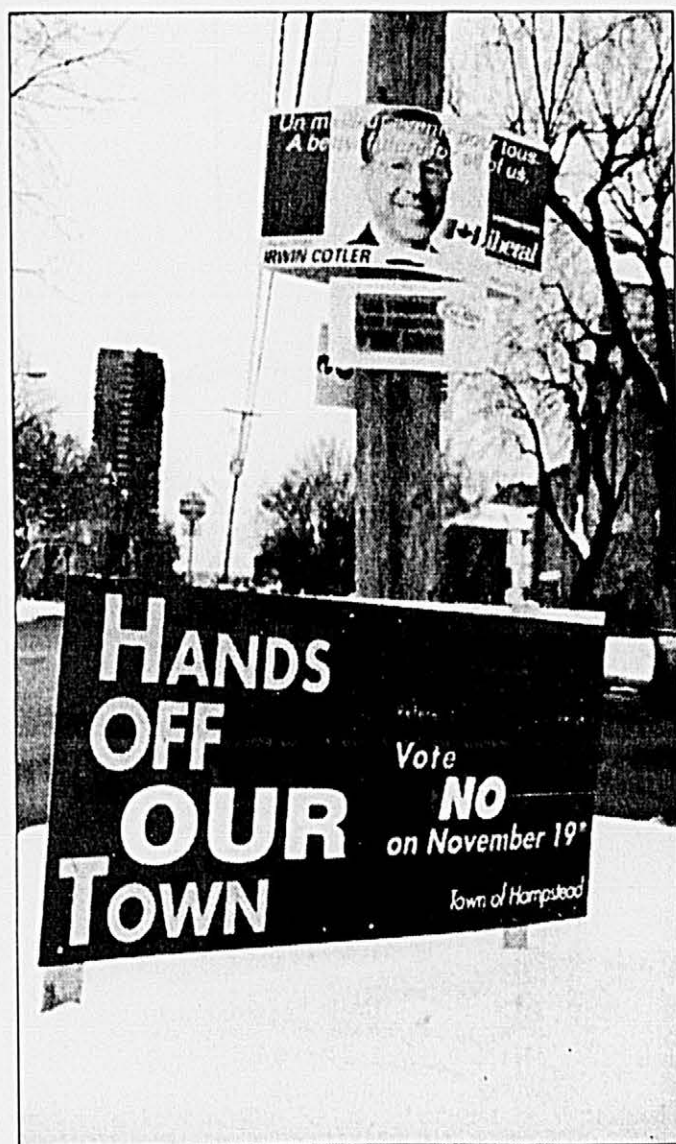
According to Melançon, another of the city's goals is to "move towards a better distribution of wealth among citizens and corporations." He feels that the Bernard plan does not adequately address the issue of fiscal equity, claiming that under the plan "the rich will stay rich, and the poor will stay poor, as opposed to having a relatively equitable redistribution of money."

FINANCIAL EQUITY?

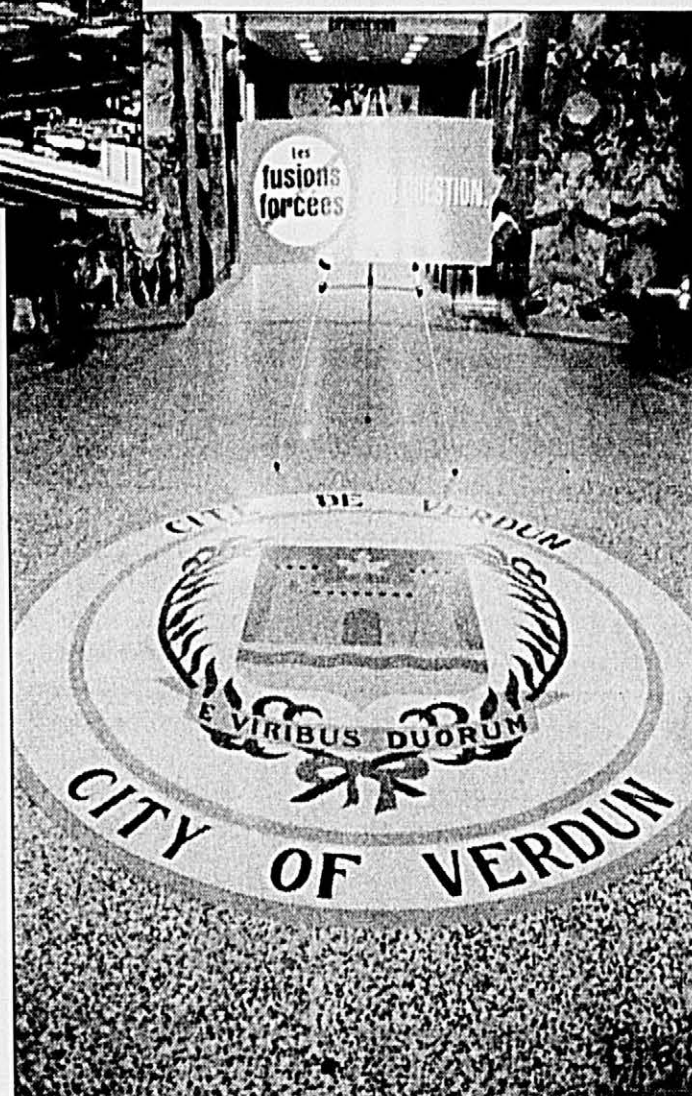
Though Trent agrees that fiscal equity is "the only logical argument in favour of amalgamation", he feels that it can be dealt with in other ways: "Through the Montreal Urban Community, we are already contributing to the city of Montreal to the tune of 150 million. The suburban municipalities on the island contribute 150 million dollars more to the MUC than they receive in services, and that money goes directly to Montreal. The fiscal argument should disappear."

One aspect of the Bernard plan that worries municipal mayors is two-level taxation. Citizens would pay taxes both to the city of Montreal and to their municipality. Under the plan, according to Trent, "Westmount would have very exiguous taxation powers. It would essentially mean the end of Westmount as we know it." Trent feels that the issue is of prime importance, claiming that "an elected official has to have control over both his or her spending and revenue to be accountable to the public." When asked whether any two-level taxation system would be acceptable, Trent replied "Only one that truly reflected our costs."

Melançon disagrees: "I don't have the power to tax the citizens of Côte-des-Neiges to start a public security force like the ones that exist in Westmount and Outremont. I don't have the right to do that. It's that kind of mentality that we have to break in the small municipalities."



Matt Sheren



Municipal residents are not interested in giving up this 'mentality', however, mainly because they don't see how the quality of services could possibly remain as high as it is now under the new megacity. One example that has been brought up by many concerned residents is snow removal. Municipalities such as Montreal West are extremely prompt and efficient at snow removal when compared with its neighbour N.D.G., which is part of the City of Montreal. Melançon addresses this issue, saying that "the challenge [of One Island, One City] will be to make sure that the quality of local services remains the same."

MOVING TO LEGISLATION

After having considered both Bourque's and Bernard's plans, the provincial government finally tabled legislation last Wednesday outlining their official plan for municipal reform. Bill 170, which the government hopes to pass by Christmas, calls for the creation of an island-wide city made up of 26 boroughs and 1.8 million people. The legislation would also turn Quebec City into an eight-borough megacity, and would

merge municipalities on the city's south shore, in the Outaouais region, and on Montreal's South Shore. A transition period will begin on January 1st, 2001, with municipal elections slated for November 4th, 2001, and the new Montreal coming into effect on January 1st, 2002. The government claims that by 2006, the average tax bill in the new megacity of Montreal will go down by \$341, though residents in some municipalities will see their taxes go up.

Many consider the legislation to be a win for Bourque, as it completely eliminates the municipalities' right to tax. Instead, taxes will be paid directly to the megacity, and it will dole out money to the boroughs, which will be responsible for such services as garbage collection, and sports and recreation. Though they will have no taxation power, the boroughs will be allowed to charge user fees for additional services.

The government claims that there will be a five percent budget saving for the new city over the next five years, while no jobs will be lost. Critics argue that surely some people must be fired in order for there to be any saving. Melançon suggests that there may be buyouts to encourage early retirement.

One person who will definitely lose her job, however, is Vera Danyluk, Chairperson of the Montreal Urban Community. When confronted with this reality, Melançon replied that "she will lose her job in the sense that in December 2001 she will have finished her two mandates of 4 years. She would have been replaced in December 2001. The position of Chairperson of the MUC will no longer exist."

As was the case in the Bernard plan, Montreal's eight smallest municipalities will disappear under the new legislation. Bilingual boroughs will be able to keep their linguistic status, though the government has made it more difficult for boroughs to obtain bilingual status. Formerly, it was enough to show that more than half of a municipality's residents were non-francophones for it to be bilingual. The new law states that a borough will have to show that more than half of its residents are native English-speakers to be considered bilingual.

Possibly the most distressing element of the proposed merger for the municipalities is that it has not been, nor do Bourque and Bouchard want it to be, a democratic process. Several municipalities therefore

held referendums this past Sunday to ask their residents if they are for or against becoming boroughs of Montreal. In Hampstead, 99% of residents voted against forced mergers, while 97% said no in Montreal West, and 98% in Westmount. A total of 182,323 people from Montreal and from other regions affected by Bill 170 have voted on the issue, with 95% voting against forced municipal reform.

WIDESPREAD PROTEST

On Sunday, over 10,000 people rallied against mergers at the Fairview shopping centre in Pointe Claire. Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest was on hand, and promised that if his party is elected, it will undo whatever the Parti Québécois will have done. He also urged voters to speak out against mergers in the coming federal election by voting against the Bloc Québécois.

In addition to having held local referendums, a large group of municipal mayors, including those from the Outaouais region and Quebec City, where mergers are also planned, has asked Lucien Bouchard

to hold a province-wide referendum on municipal reform. The political consequences of refusing to hold such a referendum could be damaging to Bouchard according to Simms: "This is the government that's placed its future in referendums, and for them to turn around and say you can't have a referendum [would be] pretty devastating politically. The next time they think they've got winning conditions for some kind of referendum it's going to be a joke." Says Trent, "They say that they can separate by having a referendum, well I can surely make sure my city survives by the same mechanism."

Despite the measures being taken by the municipalities, Melançon remains confident that the merger will go through: "I think One Island, One City will happen, and there won't be any problem. The political situation in 2001 will be very interesting. Some mayors will continue to complain, but other more realistic ones will conclude that this is their reality, and that they have to live with it." As for whether the process can be stopped at this point, Melançon replied "absolutely not. The government is very committed to act."

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

W.E. Gladstone Murray founded The McGill Daily. This fact alone explains his place in the history textbooks, nestled snugly between the Boer War and the Triangle Shirt Factory Fire. However, he was no slouch after that. Murray went on to become a WWI flying ace, a PR man for the League of Nations and the first president of the CBC. But that's not all. He also played a behind-the-scenes part in the fake 1969 "moon landing." The U.S. government, desperate for a PR coup to best the Russkies, called up the frail Dubya E and asked for his help. Though he had not directed since he had been blacklisted in the days of McCarthy, he took the challenge on with vim and vigour. The boys at NASA were thrilled to bits, but they underestimated W.E.'s blind ambition. He didn't want to stop at a staged moon landing, so he decided that his movie would show astronauts touching down on the sun. However, pryotechnics being what they were in the 1960s, W.E. singed off his eyebrows and was later sacked.



BY IAN MCKELLAR
The McGill Daily

Why does it say KKK on the McGill Flag?

The three K's that you see on the flag atop the Arts Building are in fact three McGill Birds. According to the university, birds represent the life of contemplation befitting an academic institution such as McGill: "On a silver field are three red martlets, the mythical bird (without legs) in perpetual flight." Perpetual flight, eh? Mythical bird, eh? The university had no comment about the obvious implications of the racist birds, nor did they offer an explanation as to why all three avises protrude their tails in such a hurtful fashion. At least one Daily news editor has been grievously injured by the flag, especially the sight of the ensign illuminated ominously in the night sky. The sordid implications of these three K-birds involve their association with the 'Ku Klux Klan,' a group of white supremacists formed in the post-bellum American south and later revived in the 1920s. The original induction ceremony of the Klan in Pulaski, Tennessee, went as follows: "blindfold the new member, put a hat with donkey ears on the man's head, and then remove the blindfold in front of the mirror." Heh! Those wacky Klansmen! Another of the early members' pranks was to carry around a spare head-a gourd wearing makeup-and ask former slaves to "hold my head a minute." Only later did the Klan turn to prancing around at night wearing those frightening white robes, off which they in fact made a tremendous profit. In the 1920s, the Klan owned its own sheet factory in Atlanta called the Gates City Factory, which produced white robes at \$2 dollars a piece; the group sold them for \$6.50, and since the KKK grew to 3 million members in 1925, that was a lot of profit for a lot of robes. Historian Richard Zacks likens this giant pyramid scheme to an "Amway for bigots." Ha! In any case, shame on McGill. Our mythical birds in ought to promote tolerance and peace.

Something about McGill, Montreal or the world in general that's always bugged you? Why not ask the decoder? Email your query to decoder@mcgill-daily.com and he will do his darndest to separate the facts from the fiction and uncover the truth for you, dear reader.

You said that you wanted the Cryptic Crosswords Killed

We listened. We ruminated over our sherry. And then we bludgeoned them all to death with a hammer for you

For three months now, The Compendium Page has been running Cryptic Crosswords. And for three months, readers have been streaming into our offices with looks of anguish upon their precious little faces.

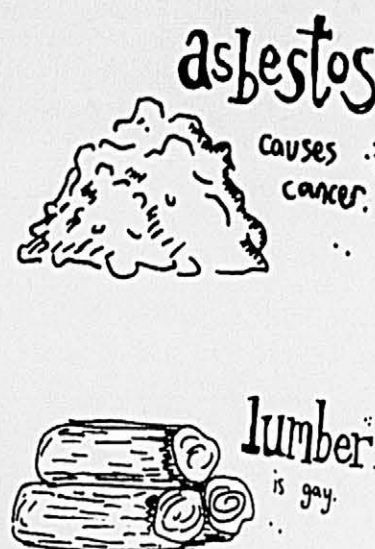
"They're too hard!" readers would say in unison. "We can't finish them, even when you give us hints." This is understandable. We know that we were pushing the envelope with cryptics. In fact, you could extend the metaphor and say that we pushed the envelope right off the table, then picked it up and burned it alive, and then we ate the ashes sprinkled on top of

our grilled swordfish. So yes, dear readers, we have killed the cryptics over which you have lost so much sleep. Never again will their cunning little boxes mock you, nor will their enigmatic clues tease you into thinking that they are perfectly completable when you know very well that they are not.

Fear not: Monday's Quick crosswords will continue. And we will not stand idly by while a gaping hole opens in your cruciverbal week. A new, nefarious diversion will be found. We are testing focus groups with them right now. Until then, enjoy the silly picture at right.



AWKWARD SECRETS OF CANADIAN EXPORTS by Steve Barker



EVENTS

Thursday, November 23

"Globalize This!" – a panel of women of colour speaking to continued colonialism. Contact 398-7432 or shakti@tao.ca for more info. Leacock 26, 7 pm.

"FIRST," written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general. 398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Runs until Saturday.

Tuesday Night Café Theatre presents "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and "The Love Taker." \$6 students, \$8 general. 398-6600 or tnc_theatre@hotmail.com for reservations. Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, 8 pm. Runs until Saturday.

"Uphill All the Way: The Struggle to Unite Women's Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance, and the Right to Housing." With Ariane Brunet and Leilani Farha. New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel St., Rm. 202, 4 pm.

Station (Eki) will be shown as part of the 18th Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Consulate General of Japan along with the McGill Centre for East Asian

Research. Directed by Takakura Ken, 1981. 132 min., Japanese with English subtitles. Call 866-3429x224 for more info. Adams Aud., 7:30 pm.

"Resilience of Ecosystems," a presentation by Dr. Marten Scheffer, presented by the McGill School of the Environment. Contact Christine Sgherri at 398-2827 or Katherine Scott at kscott@mse.mcgill.ca for more info. McGill School of the Environment, 3534 University St., 1st floor conference room, 4:30 pm.

Friday, November 24

Critical Mass – join a large group of cyclists who will be riding around city streets to promote bicycles as a healthier, safer, cheaper, and more energy-efficient form of city transportation. Starting from Phillips Square at Ste. Catherine and Union across from The Bay, 5:30 pm.

"FIRST," written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general. 398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Runs until Saturday.

Tuesday Night Café Theatre presents "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and "The Love Taker." \$6 students, \$8 general. 398-6600 or tnc_theatre@hotmail.com for reservations. Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, 8 pm. Runs until Saturday.

Abduction (Yūkai) will be shown as part of the 18th Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Consulate General of

Japan along with the McGill Centre for East Asian Research. Directed by Okawara Takao, 1997. 109 min., Japanese with English subtitles. Call 866-3429x224 for more information. Adams Auditorium, 7:30 pm.

Saturday, November 25

"FIRST," written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general. 398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Last night.

Tuesday Night Café Theatre presents "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and "The Love Taker." \$6 students, \$8 general. 398-6600 or tnc_theatre@hotmail.com for reservations. Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, 8 pm. Last night.

Extremely exclusive Corduroy Shaker. Bacon sushi will be served. By invitation only.

Monday, November 27

"Naming the Witch: Power and Politics Behind Representations of Magic in the Ancient World." With Kimberly B. Stratton of Columbia University. Jewish Studies Building, 3438 McTavish St., Rm. 100, 5:30 pm.

Be sure to vote in the Federal Election today. And make sure not to vote for Stockwell by mistake. For more information on how to vote, check out www.elections.ca or see The Daily's last minute voter guide in Monday's issue.

Wednesday, November 29

"LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS: A Public Forum on Inter-Ethnic, Inter-Faith and Inter-Racial Dating and Relationships." Presented by the McGill Canadian Ethnic Studies Programme. Contact Todd Ferguson at 398-8483 or lovewithoutborders@hotmail.com for more info. Leacock 26, 7 pm.

Thursday, November 30

"From Seattle to Quebec City: What Anti-Globalization Looks Like!" – a student-led forum to discuss the proposed "Free Trade Area of the Americas" agreement. To be followed by a film screening: "This is what democracy looks like!", a documentary on the anti-WTO demonstrations of Nov. '99 in Seattle. Leacock, 6 pm.

"Natural Law and Judicial Review." With Robert George of Princeton University. New Chancellor Day Hall, Moot Court, 3644 Peel St., 5:30 pm.

"Cities of Sin" with Prof. William Straw. Part of series entitled "Urban Icons 2, The City: Studies in Visuality," where in McGill academic staff examine the place of art communications and architecture in urban life. Arts Building, W-215, 5 pm.

"If Spinoza Were Alive Today, Would He Live In Israel?" Professor Ze'ev (Warren) Harvey of Hebrew University. Leacock 927, 4 pm.

Events listings are provided free to campus and community groups. Email your listings to events@mcgilldaily.com

McGill's Best Voices Soar

Cynical reviewer hopelessly overcome by jolly a cappella tunes

BY SARA LAZAROVIC
Culture Reporter

First: A disclaimer. I am not usually the preening critic, poised to dole out praise in heaping portions. Nope. I am the grouch in the corner. With pen in hand and brow slightly furrowed, I wait, impatiently, to be impressed. I can count the number of times I've been begrudgingly cajoled into some forced bit of audience-participation. So, when my eyes travelled down the length of my arms and found these strange entities (my hands?) snapping along to the perky little tunes of acapella group Effusion, I was both shaken and stirred. Effusion's Saturday night show in Birks Hall shifted my paradigm. Maybe the following 'perfect pitch' will shift yours.

Ah, acapella. This much-loved second cousin to the chorus enjoys popularity of a greater scale in our neighbour-nation to the south. Four years ago, McGill had no venue for these singers-sans-instruments to hone their craft. Notably, McGill now boast two harmonious groups, with a third getting ready to strike their first chord.

Effusion was formed a year and a half ago by a quartet of acapella enthusiasts. John Day, Nathaniel Misry, Jenna Robertson and Brianna Nadean began getting together and rehearsing informally. Before long, they had a group of twelve, culled from a pool of over 100

auditioners. And so began the process of making beautiful music together.

In a relatively short amount of time, Effusion has become a tight, boisterous and respected group. Last Saturday's show flatly proved them to be a sharp new force on the McGill music scene.

Tonal Ecstasy, McGill's first acapella troupe, opened for Effusion. They performed three enthusiastic numbers. Their talents were diversely represented, as they followed "Smooth Operator" with a feisty rendition of the Destiny's Child set-feminism-back-200-years-anthem "Can You Pay My Bills?"

A spirited crowd cheered as Effusion flew in and formed a football huddle onstage. Howls of hike, set, and other football jargon set the tone for what would be a party of a show. Gothic and stately, Birks Hall provided a fun contrast to Effusion's arousing rendition of "Sexual Healing." "You Can Feel it All Over," "Redemption Song," "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?," "How Deep is Your Love?," "Ain't No Sunshine," "Steal My Kisses," "Oh Canada," and a little too much Mariah Carey set the crowd trembling with delight.

Most of the songs sung by Effusion are the arranging work of talented group member Jon Day. Though Day apologized for his inability to speak English, his humorous introductions added bee to the ballads and bop to the balladeers. Day helped to bring out a richness of vocal talents and general affability that

were already existent in the group.

Effusion generated much laughter between songs with amusing little skits. One member of the group refereed a battle of the sexes and there was a guest appearance by a certain less than respected US President who is often known to sing the blues himself.

The choreography and skits were a collaborative effort of this very collaborative group. "The night before the concert we came up to my place and had a big choreography session until 4 a.m.," said group founder Nathaniel Misry. "We ended up sleeping on the floor. Then, five of us got up and went to music theory class in the morning. It's really like a family," said Misry.

The two weeks preceding this, their biggest, show was a crescendo of fine-tun-



Photos by Matthew Sheren

Effusion and Tonal Ecstasy got jiggy with it at the Birks Chapel



We don't need no stinking instruments

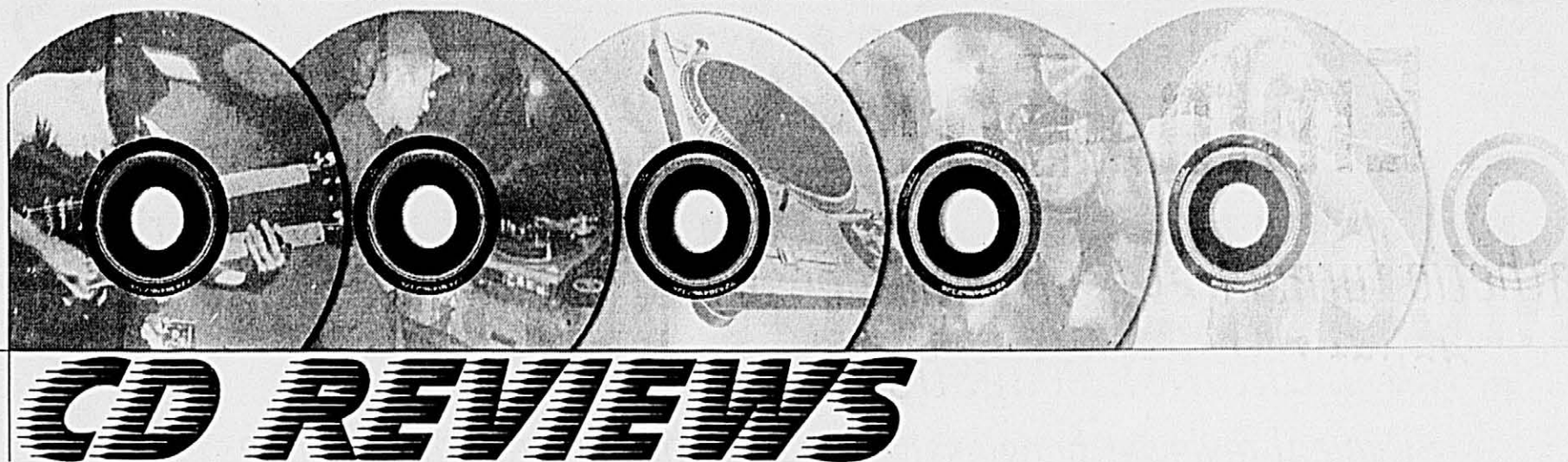
ing for the group. "We probably rehearsed for fifty hours in the past two weeks," said Misry. "We doubled our repertoire and accepted six new people as well. We worked a lot, but there's a really relaxed sense to it. If we weren't in acapella together, we'd all be friends anyway, so we've really lucked out," said Misry chummily.

The cohesiveness of the group wafted out, making the audience feel they were sitting not on red-pillowed, wooden pews, but in a cozy living room where everyone's had a bit to drink. Effusion gave shouts out to their many fans, and even presented a 'friendly person' award to a supporter.

An encore at the end of the night brought up both acapella groups. Together, they provided jumpy backup to Elvis Crespo (Tonal Ecstasy member Matt Dasco) as he performed a pelvis-

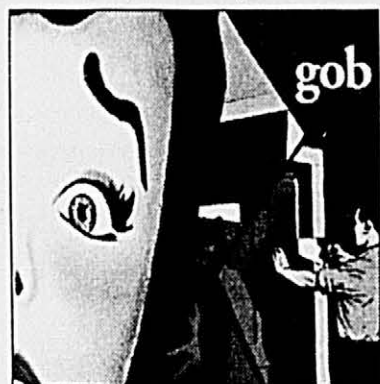
oriented rendition of "Suave Mente." Clad in spandex pants, a sequin shirt and a glorious black wig, Dasco was a key part of the acapella experience. Moreover, any show that involves someone wearing a purple sequin shirt is worthy of patronage.

Effusion is the kind of warm-your-heart group that knows how to perform. Campyness without cornyness, the ability to make Boyz II Men enjoyable, cute stage-wear, stellar song stylings and the feeling that they must all be really nice people to boot, are a few of their choice attributes. Hats off to Effusion for erasing high-school images of the tone-deaf, cummerbund-wearing glee-clubbers whose idea of getting into their performance is to sway slightly in conflicting directions. If they got this perpetual cynic to sing their praises, they just may nab you too.



GOB
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GOB
NETTWERK

When gob covered "Paint it Black" by, well, you know, for the *Stir of Echoes* soundtrack, the outcome reflected the means: the song showed they no longer listened to punk; and its success implied that they are no longer punks. And as pretentious as this is, it's true; it works: unlike most punk escapists, gob don't suck worse now than they used to: they've steered clear

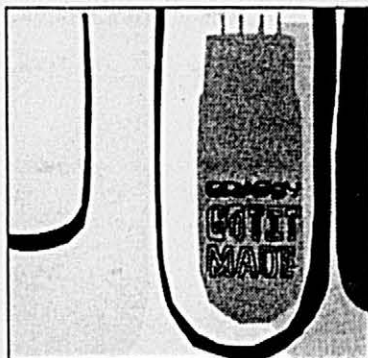


of the trade-off between emotion and cogency. They still tip their hats to NOFX, just to be on the safe side, but this album has more in common with Sloan or Jimmy Eat World than it does with any Fat Wreck stuff. The dueling guitars, mostly mid-tempo, are glossier than punk but more raw than rock; the vocals have progressed enough that there is actually - gasp! - singing; the bass is nice and crispy; the drums punchy: it is a successful, well-structured album, and not only on a punk scale. Gob are still goofs though: I mean, who covers a Rolling Stones song for a Kevin Bacon horror movie? But they made it back when they got Jason Priestley to direct their new video, although, truth be told, he hasn't done anything inspired since "Calendar Girl". —*Sami Reiss*

BRASSY
GOT IT MADE
WIIJA

Brassy makes a big statement with this excellent album of tight and creative live drum'n'bass. As Wiija label-mates bis matched sugary pop-punk with disco beats, Brassy mixes up drum-kit breakbeats with dirty garage guitar licks and rad turntablist scratch-sessions. The icing on the cake is a smooth layer of Brassy's own vocal sass, a style that falls somewhere between that of fellow trip-hop divas like Moloko or Portishead's Beth Gibbons. These seventeen tracks yield no disappointments and highlights include, but are certainly not limited to, the sly opener "No Competition," disco-rock madness of "Nervous" and the super-catchy surf-breakbeat of "Good Times." As

refreshing as this album is, Brassy's ego seems to be almost as big as her musical



imagination (just check out song titles like "No Competition," "Who Stole the Show (we did ya' know)" and "B'cos we Rock," all of which have lyrics to match). Attitude aside, this is brilliantly fresh music which fans of d'n'b, trip-hop, turntablism and indie-rock will find equal pleasure in. —*Patrick Guyer*

OUTKAST
STANKONIA
FLATTAX

The self-described "coolest mother-funkers on the planet" have returned with their fourth album, a wild and crazy trip to the mythological land of Stankonia, a land of love and snell. Outkast's Big Boi and Andre 3000 are some of the most creative minds in rap, or any other form of music today. This dynamic duo drop verse after verse of mind-blowingly odd rhymes and often do so at warp-speed. Luckily, lyrics are included for the booklet so one can follow along. The



album is filled with rich, soulful sounds that evoke greats from George Clinton to Prince. Many of the choruses are works of art, gripping the listener immediately. Rap fan or not, one would be hard pressed to resist the insanely catchy "Ms. Jackson." Stankonia is far from perfect however, as it's filled with superfluous skits and appearances from 6 (!) members of Goodie Mob making the listener wish we'd hear more from Outkast themselves. Regardless, the group once again state their case as one of the most innovative, bizarre and, above all, talented, rap groups around. —*Paul Berry*

DOWNLOAD
EFFECTOR

NETTWERK PRODUCTIONS

Originally formed as a Skinny Puppy side-project, Download has made a reputation for itself based mostly on the fame of its (now defunct) predecessor. That's not to say that Download's a bad crew of dark techno-dweebs; they are quite able at stringing together their weird noises into a sort of soundtrack for nightmares. Problem is, their music best suits those grey, none-too-graphic nightmares - the ones about dark alleys and greasy doorknobs. As a sort of Skinny Puppy-lite, their ambient noise lacks any real originality or...well...ambience. Very danceable (often an indicator of not-so-intellectual electronica), *Effector* excels only in those moments (such as at the end of "The Guide" or "Ego Dissolve")



when they inject some humanity into the mix of blips and crunches. While Skinny Puppy excelled at representing inhumanity, Download rises above the chaff only when they are willing to throw something organic in with the industrial machines. —*Sean Michaels*

AT THE DRIVE-IN
RELATIONSHIP OF COMMAND
GRAND ROYAL

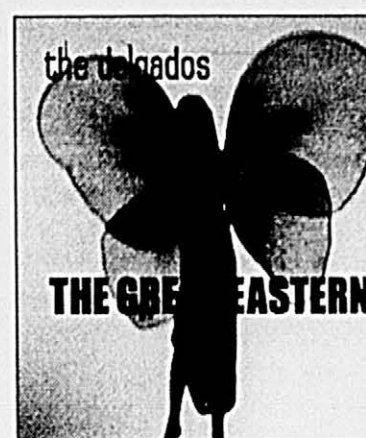
It's easy to pan a CD that I don't like from some band I've never heard before. It's harder to find the right words to describe a band that I really like listening to. At the Drive-in has a sound unlike any other. Songs of



melody and dissonance are woven together by poetic lyrics ranging from spoken words to trembling cries. Would-be odd and empty pauses are bridged by the hum of the bass

and the rattle of cymbals. Few bands really understand how necessary it is for us to have an emotional experience when we put on their record. At the Drive-in has the power to make you express complex emotions you haven't felt for years.

Inactive listening will not be rewarded. Programming creates a sense of depth that wasn't there on older releases (like *Acrobatic Tenement*). The clean and clear production makes the guitars stand out with a fullness that allows even lightly struck notes to really affect you (because sometimes it's the little things that get you). Without the keyboard vying for my attention, the guitars are complex and beautifully held in check only by the consistency of the kick and snare. "A vivid dissection that mocked/ the strut of vivisection/ semi- automatic colonies/ and a silencing



that still walks the streets" from "Invalid Litter Dept." Buy this record. Period. —*Zack Finkelstein*

THE GREAT EASTERN
THE DELGADOS
CHIEKAL

This is such a weird CD. It appears that what the Delgados do is semi-sing very, very strange lyrics over soothing and calm music. There are 10 tracks worth of this.

The first song sounds like a lullabye, with its sing-song tone and friendly orchestral background. But this is a lullabye for the possessed. The lyrics include such lovely sentiments as "Touched that you think I'm a heartless old crank" and "Hey there, don't despair, get in the cave." Hey, at least these aren't your usual "I'm your friend till the end" clichés. And all the songs are like that, or even more outlandish, except for one about child abuse. Good times!

The musical tone varies a little bit through the album, but the vocals are always the same. There are 3 men who contribute their voices, and one woman, but they all use the same tone. It's sort of a half-singing, half-reciting weird poetry. This is the first part that gets annoying about the Delgados. If you

aren't listening to the words, which is easy, since they are generally fairly quiet, you could get along for some time just swaying quietly to the gentle rhythm. But sooner or later, the incessant sing-song of the vocals will pierce your stupor, and then you may be tempted to put an axe through your CD player. And really, do you want to buy a CD that will make you do that? Of course not. —*Camille Baricello*

BLUR
GREATEST HITS
EMI

Blur has a special place in my heart: international borders were broken five summers ago when my Scottish cousin and I bonded over our mutual enjoyment of loudly singing the lyrics to "Park Life" and annoying our mothers. At the end of the summer, he made me a mix tape including an assortment of his favorite Blur tunes. I think I smell some copyright infringement: that mix tape is now an album.



Albums that are ostensibly comprised of any band's greatest hits are kind of boring to review, because they tend to include the songs by the given band that everyone likes and exclude the bad ones. Thus the moniker "greatest hits." The ones that didn't make the top 40 just aren't there.

Blur (or their producers) have selected the best of what many would agree is one of the coolest English bands since the Beatles. (The Gallagher brothers may beg to differ, but who wants to listen to their greatest hits?) From "Charmless Man" to "Song 2" (also known as the "woo-hoo" song) all of the "classics" are all there. No, Blur is probably not the most musically gifted group of all time, but who cares? Their album includes a wide range of raucous, upbeat sing-along songs with catchy lyrics that will help you immensely if you want to adopt a working-class English accent and would likely be a perfect soundtrack to set the mood when you're spending an evening with some beer and the lads. If you know the lads, that is. —*Jean Edelstein*

Emm, Eh?

*Pathetic turnout at Club Zone doesn't
daunt Ontarian songstress*

BY MARK YOUNG
Culture Writer

Emm Gryner is a musician who has the kind of talent that could fill a hockey arena, but last Thursday night her audience was no more than thirty, barely populating a small club on the south end of Crescent Street.

A five-year veteran in the music business, Gryner knows firsthand how the industry works. "It was an unconscious decision for me," Gryner said, alluding to her decision to be a professional musician, in an interview prior to the show. "I never thought of doing anything else, I watched my brothers play, and for two years I recorded in my bedroom with a four track. I started playing the clubs and now, here I am."

She moved from her home town of Sarnia, Ontario at twenty and struggled through the small clubs of Toronto, playing for years to get the dream record deal and see a light of fame that faded all too rapidly. She's performed with David Bowie and met her childhood rock idols, yet she still finds herself playing her heart out to only a few fans.

November 16th, at Club Zone on Crescent St., was one of those nights. After McGill's own Pigeon-hole warmed up the stage with their usual folksy punk, Emm came out to face the paltry crowd. Clad in a cardigan and rock-chick tight pants, she presently removed her sweater to reveal a sparkly, backless top in an apparent effort to persuade some rude male audience members to pay attention rather than chatting through her set. Accompanied solely by percussionist Dean Stone, Gryner serenaded the small crowd with gorgeous melancholy ballads combined with occasional pop tunes. Proficient on guitar, and impressive on bass guitar and piano, Gryner produced a full and strong sound with each song. Her voice is reminiscent of Australian singer Natalie Imbruglia, her style is a mix of Tori Amos and Sarah McLachlan, and her lyrics are pretty and sincere.

So why haven't you heard of her? You'd be surprised to hear that you may already have. Gryner has released four albums, including her most recent, *Dead Relatives*, produced on her own record label, Dead Daisy Records. Dead Daisy has been home to all but one of her releases. *Public*, her second album was released on Mercury Records in 1998. Heavy promotion by the label lead to her only mainstream hit to



Emm Gryner is unstoppable

date, "Summerlong," an upbeat guitar pop song often heard all over Canada radio in the Summer of '98. Shortly after, however, Mercury merged with Universal Records and by fall Gryner's record deal was a thing of the past.

Gryner's stint in the world music scene hasn't stopped, however. She's played the travelling female rock show Lilith Fair throughout her career, and she has been a backup singer and instrumentalist for rock legend David Bowie for over two years. She's played for sold-out clubs in her native Ontario, and performed in festivals such as North by Northeast in addition to Lilith Fair. Her talent has thus not gone unnoticed by the industry, and she has proved herself a worthy and talented contributor.

However, when Gryner plays outside her home province, she is disappointed to find very small crowds in attendance. Throughout her set she must have mentioned the small size of the crowd a half a dozen times, but to her credit, she didn't let it taint her musical performance. She sang her hit song "Summer Long," played her new love ballad, "Parting Song" off *Dead Relatives*, and showed her love of 80's hair band Def Leppard with a slow and mysterious version of "Pour Some Sugar on Me," proving that no industry setbacks can stop Emm Gryner from singing her heart out.

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Dancing in the Streets for Charity

BY MARIE ARNOT
Culture Reporter

The air at Le Monument National was infused with earnest anticipation of the performance of *Dance for Life* last Sunday. *Dance for Life* is a charitable event to raise funds and awareness for cancer research and palliative care. The theme of cultural diversity developed through a wide array of dance and musical performances from organizations around Montreal.

The event was produced by Deepak Dhawan, who stressed the importance of palliative care, the treatment of people with terminal illnesses, across Canada. The main beneficiary of *Dance for Life* is McGill's "Integrate and Whole Person Care," project lead by Dr. Balfour Mount of the faculty of medicine.

Dean of Medicine Abraham Fuks commented that palliative care is not about dying, that it is about living. Through events such as *Dance for Life*, funds that are generated by the K.C. Dhawan Foundation will be

used for the financial support of various organizations across Montreal, cancer research and the enhancement of those undergoing palliative care treatment.

The night began with the McGill Jazz Combo, who should be applauded for their energetic performance. From the School of Indian Classical Dance and Music came Nrithyala, whose rhythm, character and brightly-coloured costumes seemed to spark the audience's interest. The Troyanda Ukrainian Dance ensemble's energetic moves and boisterous music definitely pleased the crowd. The audience was tapping their feet and clapping to the beat as the dancers did huge leaps into the air. The Montreal Korean Folk Dance Association elegantly performed a dance and musical selection where they kept in perfect symmetry and kept the beat rhythmic all the way through.

Huit Temps, a highly innovative modern jazz dance group never seemed to miss a step. They obviously brought a lot of dance experience to the show. The Kalinangan Filipino troupe was fascinating with their own distinct

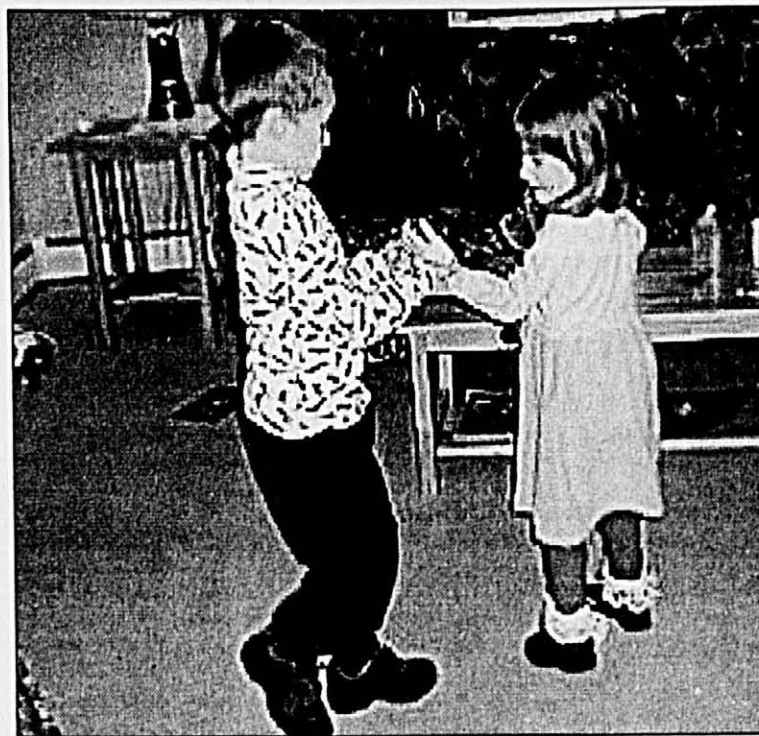
style of dance and music. They had a group of dancers that made simple, yet interesting movements, combined with loud drums that

gave off an instinctual beat for them to dance to. The night ended with swing dancing from the Arthur Murray Dance School who expert-

ly danced to hits from the roaring twenties. Throughout the night, excerpts from a film about patients in palliative care were shown and proved to be quite moving.

Marché provided the delicious food at intermission (though I am biased towards any non-cafeteria style food). The entire event was highly interactive, and there were several opportunities to win door prizes donated by businesses across Montreal. It was great to see so many varied cultural performances in one night. This event was especially incredible for me—a small town girl from Saskatchewan—because I saw so much cultural diversity. *Dance for Life* provided a unique way to discover new cultures, and made the experience of learning more about cultures effortless.

Dance for Life educated the audience and provided an excellent way to exhibit talents from cultures across the globe. This show displayed many different cultures in the hopes that people will realize that illness can strike anyone regardless of their race or culture.



Look out Fred and Ginger

the BOOKSHELF

An Exercise in Retrospection

ANGEL WALK
BY KATHERINE GOVIER
RANDOM HOUSE VINTAGE CANADA
570 PAGES

Katherine Govier gives us an intuitive and reflexive account of a life. Her novel examines the important issues surrounding memory and retrospection through examining the reader's perception, by creating two forms of narration and pitting them against one another.

This is the premise: the main character, Cory Ditchburn, is a photographer, and her son is doing a retrospect of her life and work. To get ready, she must examine all the photographs of her lifetime. The idea of photography allows for an objectivity seldom seen in novels, an objectivity which Govier takes full advantage of. Every chapter begins with a photograph. This creates an objective image. The events surrounding the photograph are narrated

in the chapter, but through the eyes of the photographer. At the end of the chapter, the photograph as you saw it first is hardly recognizable. Your perception becomes thwarted as what was seen objectively is now seen through the eyes of a person.

As Cory relives her past through these photographs, she is stunted in her inner retrospection by the misinterpretation of those around her. Her son sees the photographs in a completely different light. But Cory herself is unable to see them the way she did because constant memory has altered what she recollects of the events of her life. She realizes that her life has been composed of moments captured in her photographs, but more importantly, realizes that these moments do not match entirely the experience behind them.

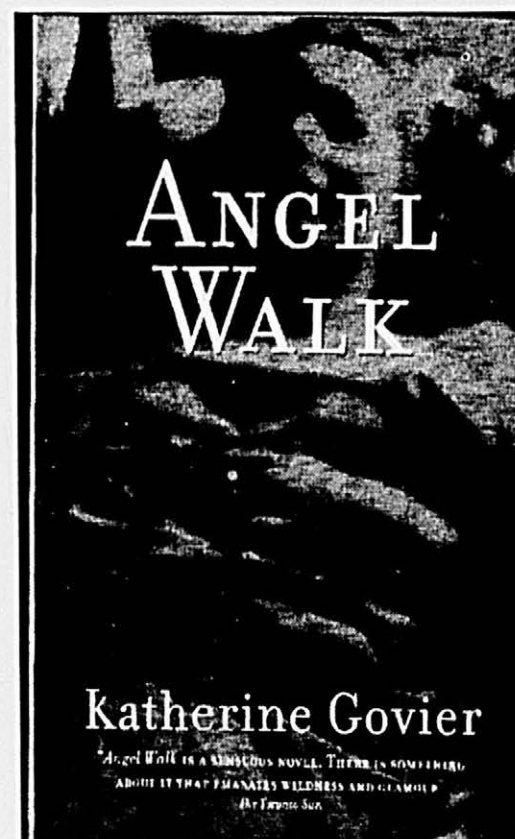
The novel is about the inadequacy of art, of photography, of human agency, to record the experiences and emotions of a lifetime. It's about the

impossibility of objective retrospection into one's life.

Aside from all this, Govier's descriptions of landscape are adequate and concise. Northern Ontario really comes as much to life as the gray streets of London. Her portraits of the Second World War are gripping and convey the characters' helplessness in the face of such human catastrophe. Govier's talent for creating emotion is at its best in this novel. While reading it, I felt sometimes angry and frustrated, then laughing out loud on the next page. Because of its strong emotions and because it covers a lifetime extensively, though not tediously, it does take a long time to read.

I really enjoyed it and I feel like Cory has accompanied me through my paper-writing and midterm-taking this semester. I liked it because it is true to human nature and shows its limits without downgrading its exploits.

—Julie Girard



McGill Daily Culture:
It's not just about Lando anymore.





POST-HIPPO

The DAILY's
Ridiculously Ribald
Sex COLUMN

BY JOHN LAsERE

Often neglected in favour of the obviously central and all-important tactile sense, the various other senses compete during sex for even a glimmer of the action. As I've discussed in recent weeks, if sex is to be anything beyond shallow, selfish and removed robotic actions, some attention must be devoted to the "extra-textual" elements of sexual acts. So let's review. To this point we've discussed the benefits of showering before oral sex (scent and taste), the problems inherent with certain phrases during sex ("fuck me, fuck me"), and the powerful nature that a locked glance can have during sex (oh, those eyes). All of these are not necessarily keys to having great sex, but simply adjuncts which, when carefully integrated into your sex life, allow for the higher state of consciousness that makes that build towards orgasm so much sweeter.

Possibly one of the most overlooked areas of sense surrounding sex is that of sound. Encompassed within sound is anything which refers to sex (porn), relates to sexually explicit activities (dancing), or just any song, piece of music or noise which could possibly be getting you hot under the waistband. Of course, we are also talking about, yes you guessed it, those sometimes strange, sometimes titillating, always significant sounds which are made during sex. To name but a few: the suction noise made between two moist bodies (not-so-attractive, but it breaks the ice), panting, screaming, yelping, groaning, breathing heavily, slipping noises, and of course, depending on your choice of surface, bed noises (substitute couch or tent where necessary).

Simply lack of noise can be significant in some cases. Take for example the question, "Why are you not making any noise?" or a situation like my ex-girlfriend and I found ourselves in, constantly trying to keep noise to an absolute minimum, as her father was sleeping in the next room. In one case, a feeling of inadequacy forms out of the lack of aural expression, and in another, sex became even more exhilarating when combined with the challenge of

stifling those decadent love noises. Whatever the case is, your sounds are heard, by your partner, by you, and hopefully not by too many others (although perhaps that forms the outline for another fetish). Sound counts. The simple answer to the question Why? is because sex is a genital experience, but it is also a profoundly mental experience, with orgasm resulting because of vivid sexual fantasy and images as much as the stimulation of certain sensitive skin areas. Think about it like a porno. Are they better with the sound muted or with the volume turned up? The important thing is to be comfortable with the sounds you make and the ones your partner makes. They shouldn't distract from the main event, but instead should help paint the audio-visual picture in your head that you are fucking someone, and that they are fucking you too.

Beyond the personal sound expressions of individual partners, however, music (in the recorded sense although the concept of shagging in front of my favourite band might take care of several fantasies all at once) can play an important role in the articulation of sexual roles and fantasies. Carefully chosen tunes can help further enrich that soundscape which begins at the primary level with groans and sighs.

Over the few years that I have been "making-sweet-love-to-the-ladies," I've come to realize that I like choosing the music which will form the "soundtrack of love". I don't know if this is a means for me to reassert my patriarchal control over sex (I doubt it since most of the girls have dug the same music as me), or if I just happen to be more aware of what's happening around me during sex. It could possibly be because I have sex for too goddamn long

sometimes, and it gets boring. Or it could be that certain types of beats, vocals and subject matter really turn my crank. I would opt for this final hypothesis.

Ravel's "Bolero", NIN's "Closer," and mainstream hip-hop a la Jennifer Lopez... this stuff all seems to get the juice flowing. For me though, it's always been a strange mix of my mood and my attraction to people with similar musical tastes. First, I check out a girl's eyes and smile, then I check out her record collection. It's become second nature for me, so much so that when I first read the Nick Hornby novel "High Fidelity," I thought about giving the bastard a call and asking him how he got his hands on my journal notes.

So over time I have discovered various types of music I like to act as background, because it adds to my total fantasy. Suede. Pulp. Sisters of Mercy. Admittedly, I have a

bit of a fetish with Britpop stars. I like Brett Anderson's screeching vocals, Jarvis Cocker's deep husking ballads of underwear, and the relentless pulsing beat behind every Sisters of Mercy jaunt into the darkness of human activity. I've even done some sexual exploring in this area over the past week, grinding it out for the first time to David Bowie's early stuff, (with "The Man Who Sold the World") putting me over the top to orgasm. The important thing is to be aware of your senses, ALL FIVE of them, because by doing so, you enable yourself to more fully articulate sexual desire and become consumed within any specific sexual experience. So the next time you drop your drawers, open your ears and listen!

John LaSere wants to hear from you. Email him at laid@botmail.com with your fears, fantasies and regrets.

The Man Who Sold My Orgasm

Although it may sound like extra-sharp cheese, it can't be denied that some music just gets the juices flowing

Two.

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I've been coming to this circle for about five years, and measuring it. The diameter and the circumference are constantly changing, but the radius stays the same. Which brings me to the number 5. There are five letters in the word "Blaine." Now, if you mix up the letters in the word "Blaine," mix 'em around, eventually, you'll come up with Nebali. Nebali. The name of a planet in a galaxy way, way, way, way far away. And another thing. Once you go into that circle, the weather never changes. It is always 67 degrees with a 40% chance of rain.

Body Modification 101

The Daily takes a stab at piercing and lives to tell the sordid tale

BY DYRESHA HARRIS
Mind and Body Reporter

A couple decades ago, our concept of body piercing was limited to a safety pin hastily shoved through some body part south of the mohawk. Nowadays, however, it seems like everyone and their preschool teacher is getting something pierced. With navel and tongue piercings appearing in ads for everything from alcohol to shoes, chances are there will be a point in your life in which you say, "Yes, I do want to put metal through a piece of my body!" Oh blessed be, if this is that day.

There are three basic steps involved with getting a piercing. First of all, you're going to need a reason. You don't want to be one of those people who mumbles unintelligibly, "Uh, I don't know, all the cool kids were doing it." Here are some common reasons I came across: 1) It's sexy. 2) It makes my [insert erogenous zone] more sensitive. 3) It helps me get in touch with the physicality of my body and find my place in the cross-cultural family that is humanity. 4) All the cool kids were doing it.

However, some people take it even further. Martin, the piercing technician at the Superrock on St. Denis talks about people who pierce out of a pure love of piercing. "I know people who get pierced, then take it out just to get pierced again...because they like it, they like the way it feels." Fetishism or masochism, anyone?

The second question you need to answer is, "Where do I put this thing?" Here's a list of some popular places to accessorize. Keep in mind there are variations and the onus is on the piercee to discover their creative impulse to pierce uncharted territories.

Nostril pierce: goes (surprise) through the nostril. Healing time: 8 weeks Cost average: \$40-50 Upside: These piercings are small, neat, and relatively chic. Downside: Just imagine what gets caught in those curved studs during flu season.

Septum pierce: goes through the skin below the cartilage that separates the nostrils. HT: 6-8 weeks Cost av: \$60-80, Upside: You can look forward to a promising career as a mascot for the Chicago Bulls. Downside: The Chicago Bulls aren't as good as they used to be.

Around the mouth: Labret: pierce made at the center of and below the bottom lip line; Lip: usually to one side of the lower lip; Cheek: anywhere in the cheek, usually close to the mouth; HT: 10-12 weeks, 8 weeks, and 8-12 weeks respectively, Cost av:

\$40-50 This last piercing is often called the Madonna pierce, much to the chagrin of some people who have it. I had a friend with one and everywhere she went people were like "Oh, I love that pierce. Heh, heh 'like a virgin', right?" They all thought they were original.

Eyebrow: at the outer edge of either side of the eyebrow HT: 8 weeks Cost av: \$40-60

Tongue: through the center 2-3 cm back from tip HT: 2-3 weeks Cost av: \$60-80 Upside: The rumors are true. Downside: I heard about this guy once who spent \$5000 on dental surgery because his body kept thinking his piercing was a piece of undigested food and responded by sending up acidic saliva which corroded his teeth. While this may not be common (or true), the clicking noise alone could drive you crazy, and if you take it out, you may wind up with a hunk of scar tissue right there.

Ear cartilage: anywhere along the outer or inner rim. You can also pierce that little flap right above the ear cavity. HT: 6 weeks to 6 months depending on where it is Cost av: \$40 and up This piercing is vaguely exotic, but not enough so that your mother will notice. "It was just a regular ear-pierce, Mom. They must have missed."

Navel: one or more hole through the top flap of skin over the navel HT: 3-6 months Cost: \$40-60 Upside: Looks damn good in a two piece bathing-suit. Downside: Looks like a tumor in a one piece bathing-suit.

Nipple: through the base of the nipple in women and through the areola in men. Apparently 3rd nipple pierces are also pretty common (well, you know, as common as 3rd nipples) HT: 3-6 months Cost av: \$40 and up Upside: It increases sensitivity in the nipples in 90% of cases. Downside: You could part of that unlucky 10%. This piercing is also on the list of most painful.

Genital Piercings-A Special List

Prince Albert: The most popular of the male genital piercings, this one goes through the urethra and comes out behind the glans where it joins the shaft on the underside of the penis (Got that mental picture yet?). HT: 2-4 weeks Cost: \$75 and up

This piercing was developed during the Victorian era. At the time it was called a "dressing ring" and was used to strap the penis against the leg, thus avoiding an unsightly bulge in those sassy little trousers they used to wear. Thank God we invented



duct tape. Other male genital piercing include: Frenum piercing (through the loose skin on the underside of the penis), Hafada or scrotum piercing, Foreskin piercing, Guiche piercing (skin between the scrotum and the anus), Ampallang and Apadravya piercings (right through the head)

Inner and Outer Labia: is pretty self explanatory HT: 2-4 weeks and 2-3 months respectively Cost: \$75 and up Back in the day, husbands used to put these bad boys on their wives and then fashion locking devices to keep them from being unfaithful. Since then, of course, they've been reclaimed in the name of personal pleasure.

Clit hood: can be vertical or horizontal so that it hangs down over the clitoris HT: 6-8 weeks Cost: \$75 and up Upside: It increases sensitivity in the clitoris. Downside: For the love of God, people, how much more sensitive does a clit need to be?!

There are of course, other options. The technicians I questioned listed the following as some of the strangest places they'd pierced: throat, cheekbone, nape of the neck, webbing in-between fingers and the shoulder through a previously existing tattoo. However, note that anything threaded through the skin is likely to be painful and prone to infection.

Logically, your next question is "how do I go about getting this done?" To answer that I took to the streets to look at some of the body art places around these parts. Here's my little disclaimer. For the sake of time I summarized some key points of each store to get you started. If you're really thinking about getting pierced you should do your own research.

I started with Superrock I (23 St. Catherine). Do not be fooled by this place's sketchy exterior. Just because it's beside an abandoned lot does not make it inferior. As soon as I walked in I was overwhelmed by rows and rows of body jewelry in glass cases; everything from little gem flowers to skulls and spiders, to black-light marbles. Unfortunately, the employees here live in fear of some draconian manager, and as such, refused to answer my questions. Thus, there's not much more I can tell you folks, other than it's worth going just to drool over the wicked jewelry.

I headed back toward the Ghetto and ended up at Le Slick Styled Steel (3804 St. Laurent). There I talked to Richard Dupuis, the owner who, as he declared proudly "does all the piercings, personally". While it took me a while to get over the huge mural on the wall (that of a naked woman rising out of some primordial ooze, chained to the ground by various rather personal piercings), I discovered that the store itself was pretty cool. The selection, while not nearly as varied as Superrock, included some much more ornate and original pieces. The most expensive of these was a solid gold barbell at \$199. The sanitation measures were impressive, featuring pre-packaged, ADA stamped needles, piercing jewelry, and forcept as well as a separate sanitation room with autoclave. Richard is a great guy and offered me a super-discount on navel jewelry if I gave him some extra advertising in this article. Of course I declined his offer (although Le Slick does offer quality gear at reasonable prices Mon-Sat, 12:30-9). But hopefully my mention of the naked woman will suffice.

After that it was down Prince Arthur, around the outside of the small park, and over to St. Denis where I attempted to

catch a glimpse of the elusive Black Sun piercing parlor (2057 St. Denis). It's really hard to find this place because there's no sign. The only indication of its presence on the second floor of this building is a small sticker in the lower right hand corner of the glass, which says "Black Sun. Appointments only." The door is locked and requires someone to buzz you in. Needless to say I did not have an appointment, so all I can tell you is that if you like your pop culture with an elitist edge, this is apparently the place to be. To their credit they did later explained in a phone interview that their low profile was the result of not wanting to be associated with the shoddy work infamous to Montreal.

Not to be discouraged, I continued down the street, bought a paper, saw a guy I knew from class, made small talk, bitched about an exam, and stopped in at Superrock's second location (yes, it's a chain) at 1649 St. Denis. The cool thing about this place is that it's not only a piercery and tattoo parlor, it's also a cafe. That's right, pack up your books and be a slave to Second Cup no longer. Sure, when I walked in, sat down at one of the 10 empty tables, and asked for coffee the employees gave me some curious looks. But after a round of "Coffee? Do we sell that? How do you work this thing? Hell if I know", they threw a pot on the Coffeemate and brewed me up a killer cup of Joe. And what could be more ambient than a middle-aged guy on a platform getting drawn on with needles while you sip your brown caffeine.

In closing, here are the three basic rules of piercing: 1) Always inquire about, and check out yourself, the sanitation conditions at your piercery. involved. They should never reuse needles and pierce guns, except in ear pierces, should not be used. Ask them, test them and don't be shy. After all, it is your health; 2) A real pro should be willing and able to answer any and all questions you have. 3) always follow the after-care pamphlets you're given to avoid those nasty infection horror stories involving much pus, disfigurement and pain and 4) always make sure you're sober when you do it cause if you think hangovers are bad, try waking up with a pole through your crotch. Besides, if the piercery is worth their salt, they won't pierce you inebriated anyway.

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